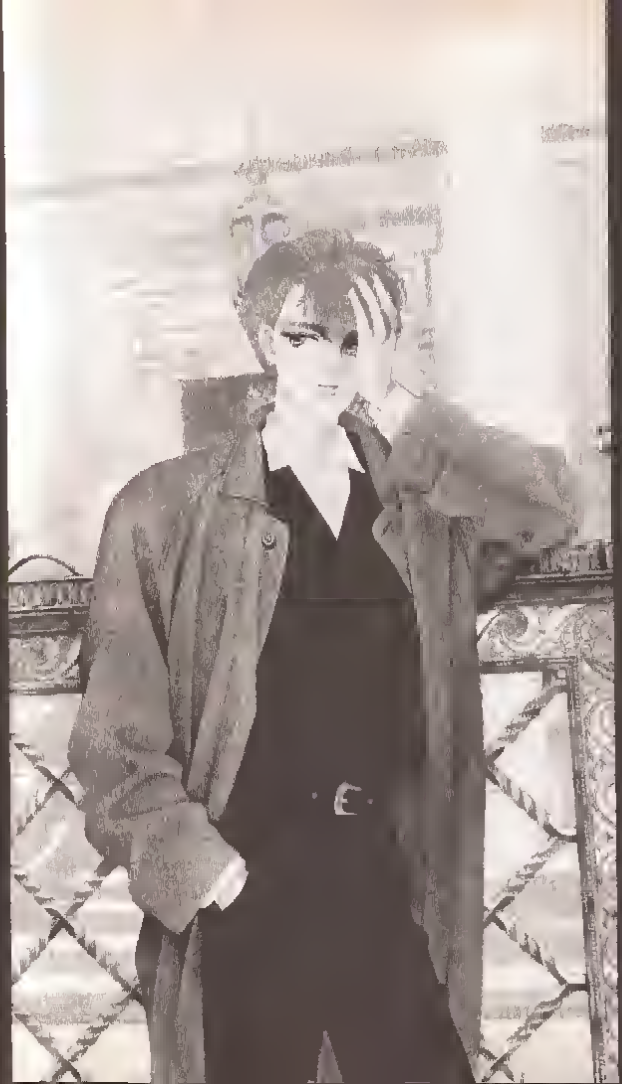
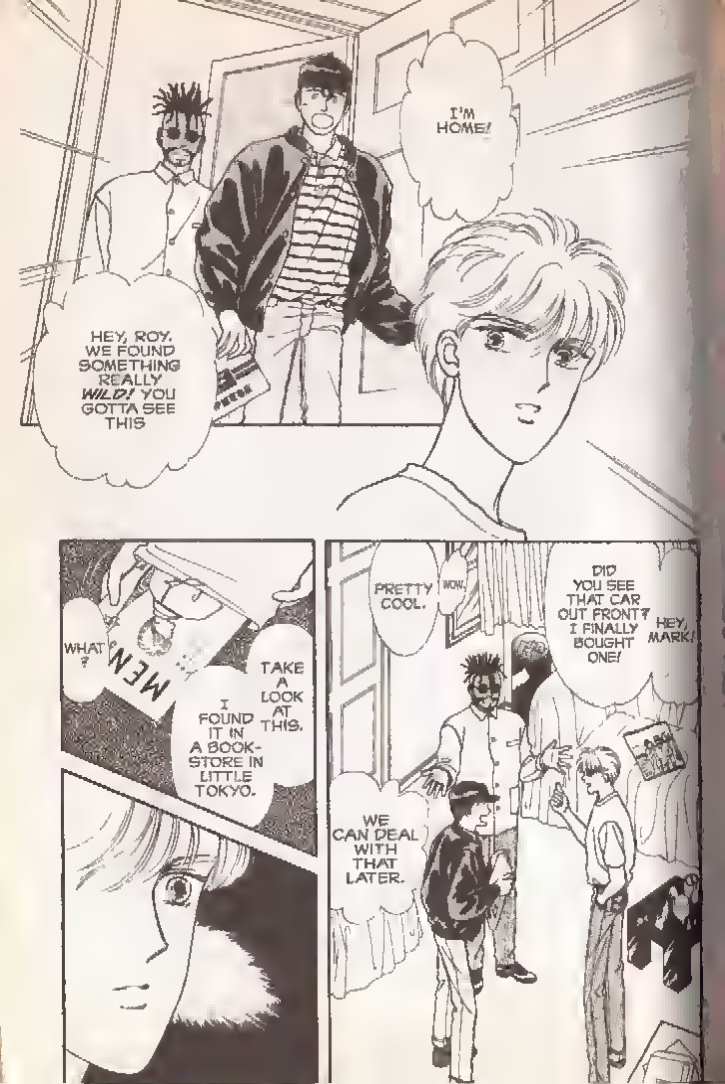
CIPHER

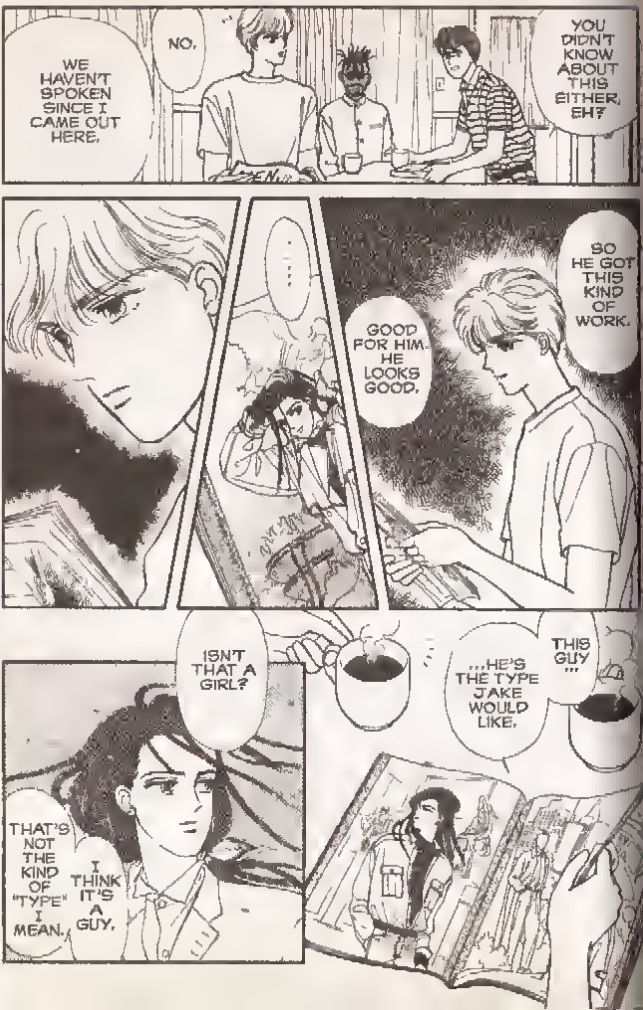
サイファ

Scene 10: PERSONA



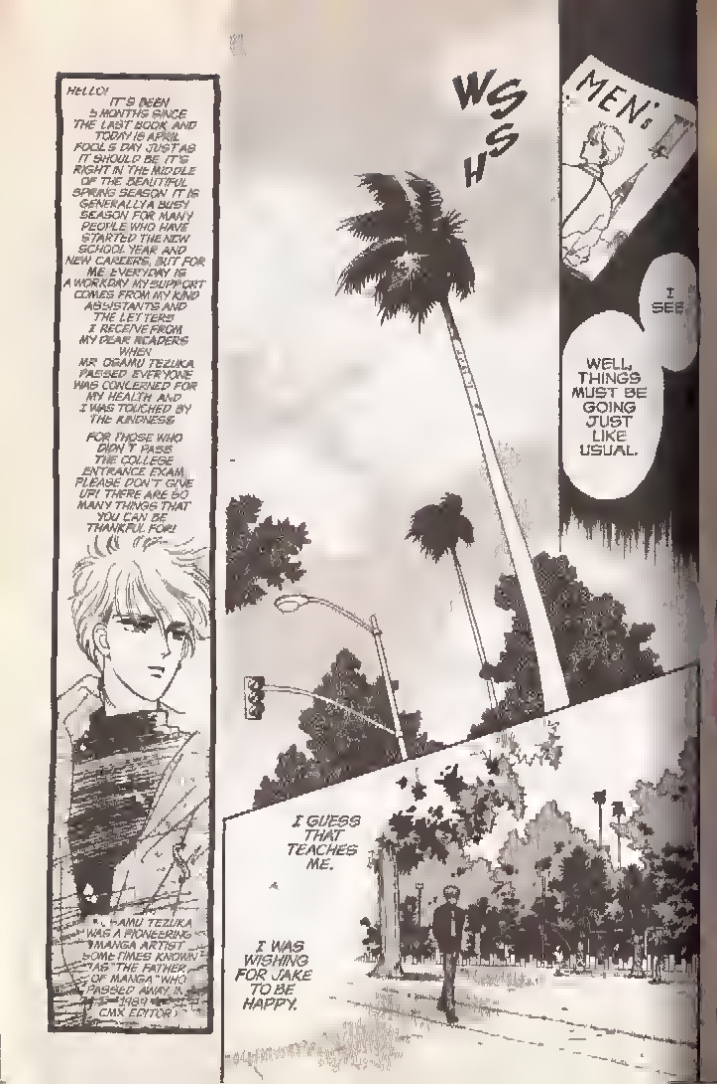

I'M HOME!
HEY, ROY. WE FOUND SOMETHING REALLY WILD! YOU GOTTA SEE THIS
HEY, MARK!
DID YOU SEE THAT CAR OUT FRONT? I FINALLY BOUGHT ONE!
WOW.
PRETTY COOL.
WE CAN DEAL WITH THAT LATER.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
I FOUND IT IN A BOOK-STORE IN LITTLE TOKYO.
WHAT?
MEN

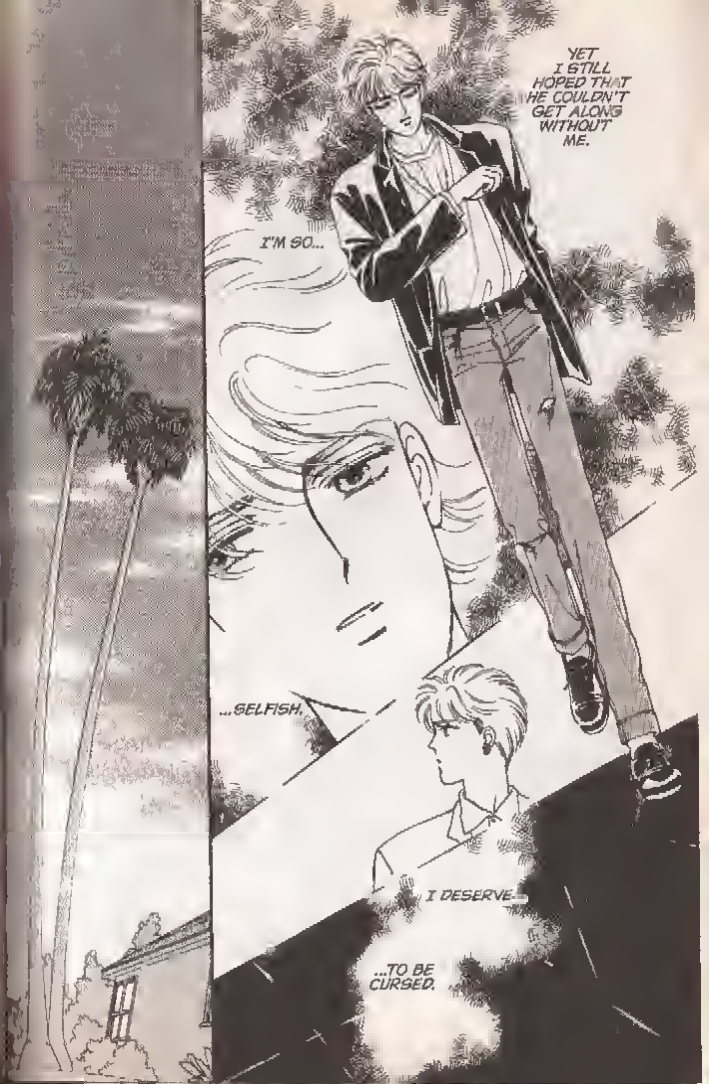
THERE'S MORE INSIDE.
MEMO
SO IT ISN'T YOU.
IS THAT YOUR TWIN BROTHER?
THE LOCATION IS NEW YORK.
THAT'S... JAKE!
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU BEFORE YOU CAME TO L.A., BUT SOMEHOW IT SEEMED DIFFERENT.
WHEN I COUNTED BACK, I FIGURED IT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.


WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN SINCE I CAME OUT HERE.
NO.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS EITHER, EH?
...
GOOD FOR HIM. HE LOOKS GOOD.
SO HE GOT THIS KIND OF WORK.
ISN'T THAT A GIRL?
I THINK IT'S A GUY.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF "TYPE" I MEAN.
...HE'S THE TYPE JAKE WOULD LIKE.
THIS GUY ...

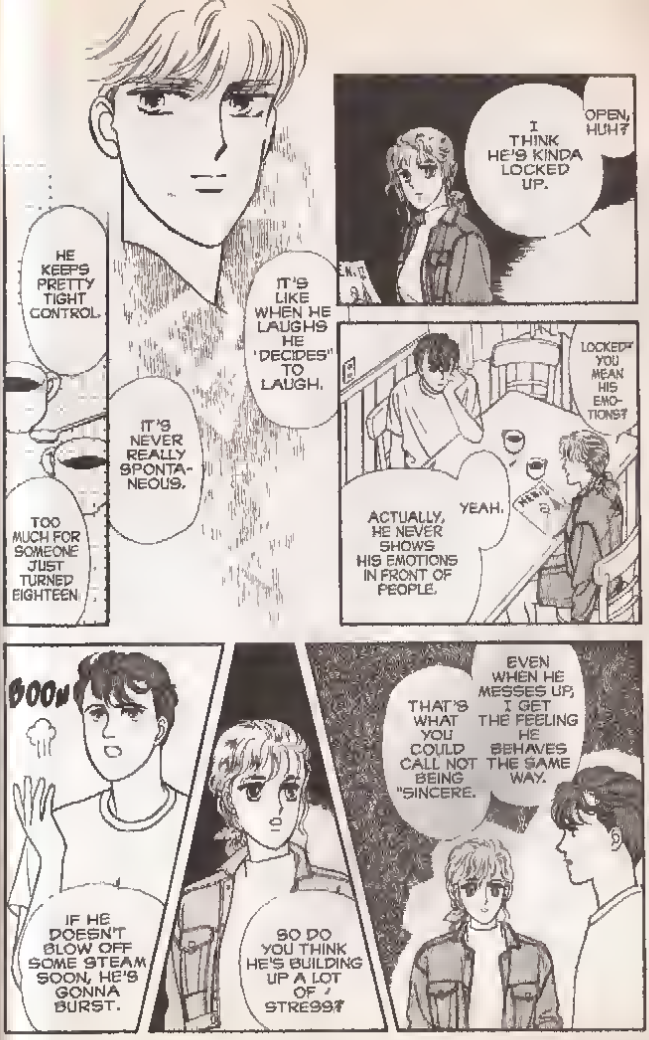
I KNOW. WE WERE BORN FROM TWO HALVES OF THE SAME EGG.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
YOU SEEM AWFULLY SURE ABOUT THAT.
THEY'RE PROBABLY FRIENDS BY NOW.
EVEN IF YOU ARE TWINS.
THAT SOUNDS SILLY.
YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND, HAL.
CWIP
C'MON, MARK. I'LL SHOW YOU MY CAR.
HEY! DON'T BLOW ME OFF LIKE THAT!

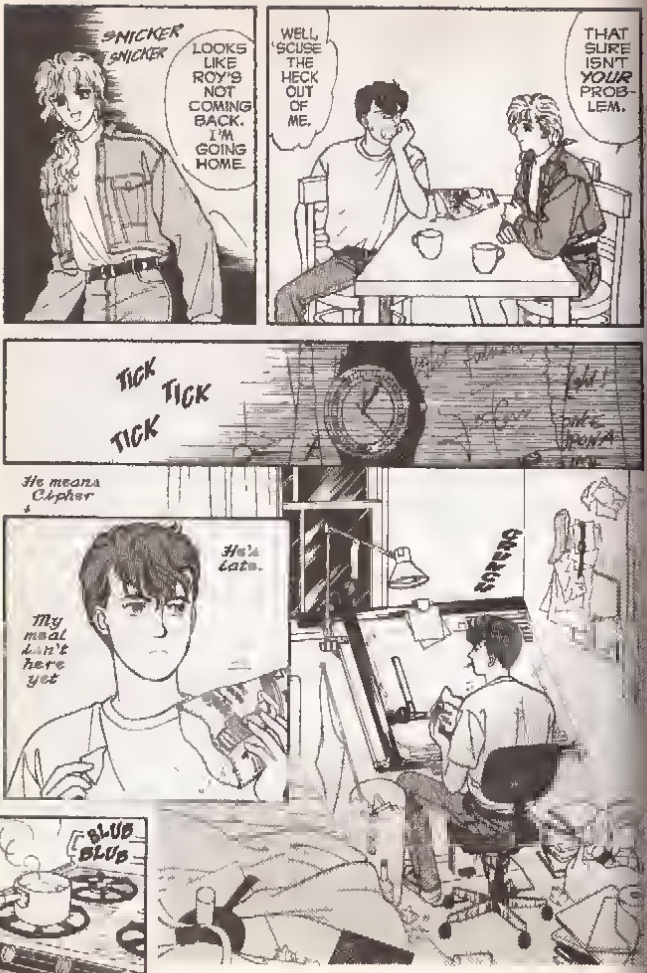
OH, BY THE WAY.
DID YOU SEE THIS YET?
I THINK THIS WILL BE A GOOD JOB FOR YOU.
BE AT THE LOCATION BY NINE O'CLOCK.
OKAY.
HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD FROM THE AGENT IN NEW YORK?
NO, NOTHING.
I BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU.
YOU CAN TAKE IT.
LOOKS LIKE SIVA'S DOING PRETTY WELL FOR HIMSELF.
YEAH

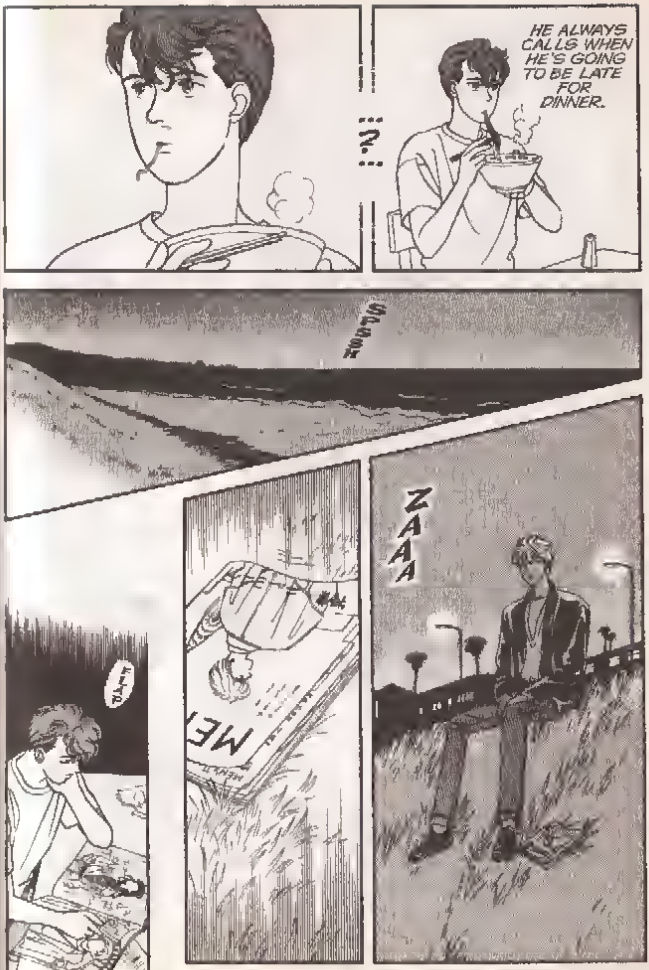

HELLO!
IT'S BEEN 5 MONTHS SINCE THE LAST BOOK AND TODAY IS APRIL FOOL'S DAY JUST AS IT SHOULD BE. IT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING SEASON. IT IS GENERALLY A BUSY SEASON FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE STARTED THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND NEW CAREERS, BUT FOR ME, EVERYDAY IS A WORKDAY. MY SUPPORT COMES FROM MY KIND ASSISTANTS AND THE LETTERS I RECEIVE FROM MY DEAR READERS WHEN MR. OSAMU TEZUKA PASSED, EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED FOR MY HEALTH AND I WAS TOUCHED BY THE KINDNESS.
FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T PASS THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM, PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP! THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT YOU CAN BE THANKFUL FOR!
O. OSAMU TEZUKA WAS A PIONEERING MANGA ARTIST SOMETIMES KNOWN AS "THE FATHER OF MANGA" WHO PASSED AWAY IN 1989. (CMX EDITOR)
WSHS
MEN'S
I SEE.
WELL, THINGS MUST BE GOING JUST LIKE USUAL.
I GUESS THAT TEACHES ME.
I WAS WISHING FOR JAKE TO BE HAPPY.

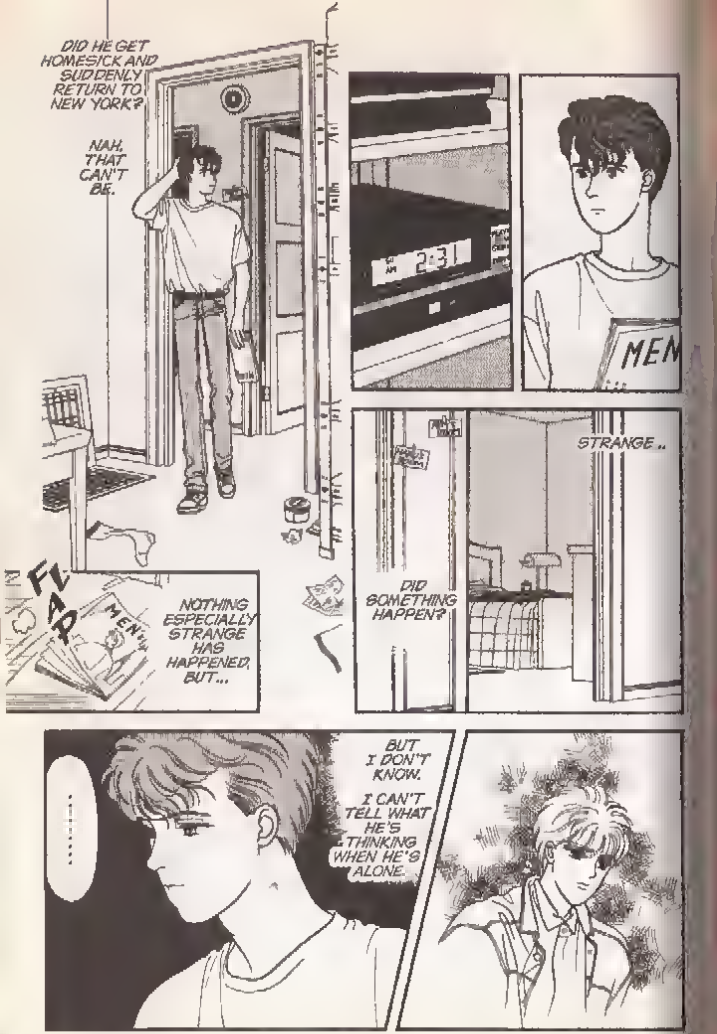

YET I STILL HOPED THAT HE COULDN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT ME.
I'M SO...
...SELFISH.
I DESERVE...
...TO BE CURSED.

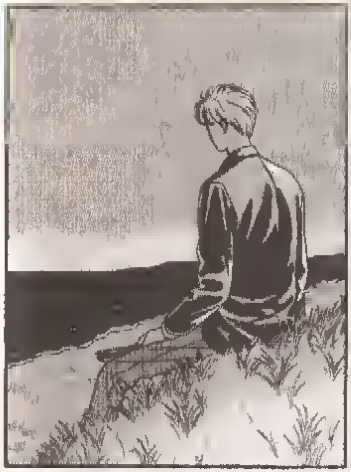
HM... HE'S NOT BACK YET.
I'M HOME.
CLATCH
HELLO?
I BROUGHT SARAH WITH ME.
GUESS HE'LL BE LATE.
A JOB, MAYBE?
HEY, SHOW ME THAT MAGAZINE THING.
HERE.
MEN'T
WOW!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM!
BUT SOMEHOW THE ATMOSPHERE IS DIFFERENT.
YEAH. HE SEEMS MORE DISTANT.
ROY SEEMS A LITTLE MORE OPEN.

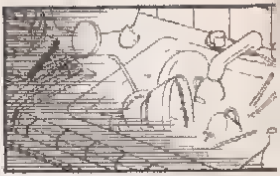

HE KEEPS PRETTY TIGHT CONTROL.
TOO MUCH FOR SOMEONE JUST TURNED EIGHTEEN.
IT'S NEVER REALLY SPONTA-NEOUS.
IT'S LIKE WHEN HE LAUGHS HE "DECIDES" TO LAUGH.
I THINK HE'S KINDA LOCKED UP.
OPEN, HUH?
LOCKED? YOU MEAN HIS EMO-TIONS?
YEAH.
ACTUALLY, HE NEVER SHOWS HIS EMOTIONS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.
EVEN WHEN HE MESSES UP, I GET THE FEELING HE BEHAVES THE SAME WAY.
THAT'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL NOT BEING "SINCERE.
SO DO YOU THINK HE'S BUILDING UP A LOT OF STRESS?
BOOM
IF HE DOESN'T BLOW OFF SOME STEAM SOON, HE'S GONNA BURST.

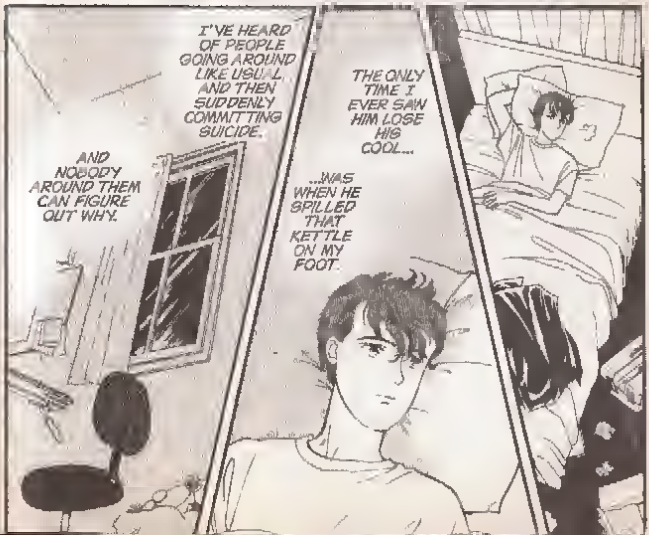

SNICKER
SNICKER
LOOKS LIKE ROY'S NOT COMING BACK. I'M GOING HOME.
WELL, 'SCUSE THE HECK OUT OF ME.
THAT SURE ISN'T YOUR PROBLEM.
TICK
TICK
TICK
He means Cipher
He's late.
My meal isn't here yet
BLUB BLUB


HE ALWAYS CALLS WHEN HE'S GOING TO BE LATE FOR DINNER.
...?...
SPEED
ZAAA
ME
ETC.


DID HE GET HOMESICK AND SUDDENLY RETURN TO NEW YORK?
NAH, THAT CAN'T BE.
2:31
MEN
STRANGE..
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NOTHING ESPECIALLY STRANGE HAS HAPPENED, BUT...
FLAP
MEN
.....
BUT I DON'T KNOW.
I CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S THINKING WHEN HE'S ALONE.






I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE GOING AROUND LIKE USUAL, AND THEN SUDDENLY COMMITTING SUICIDE.
AND NOBODY AROUND THEM CAN FIGURE OUT WHY.
THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW HIM LOSE HIS COOL...
...WAS WHEN HE SPILLED THAT KETTLE ON MY FOOT.

MAYBE THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY HE IS.
3:14
PM
FLAP

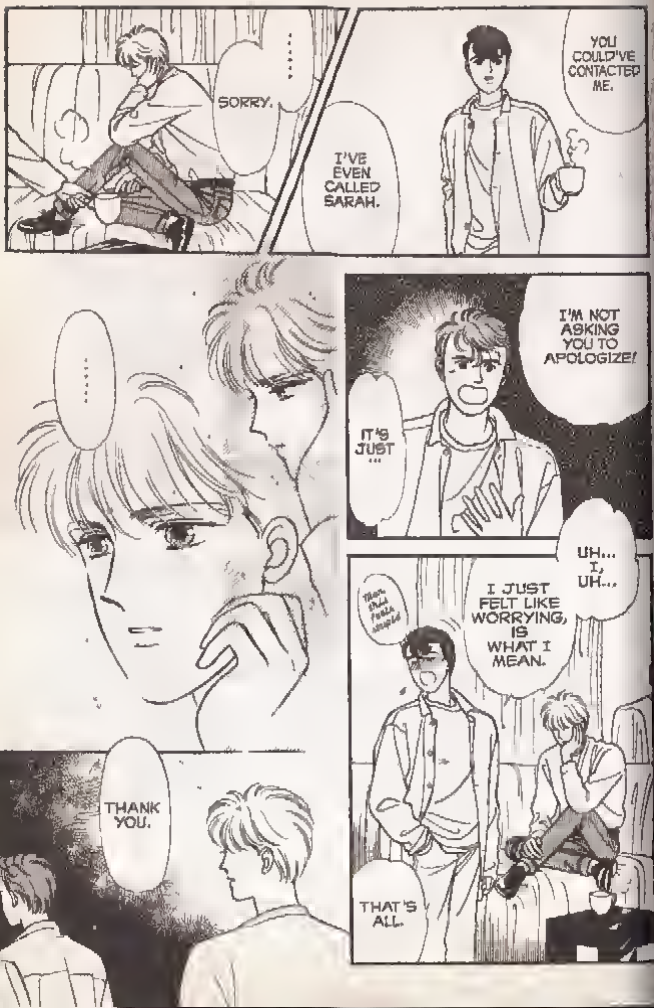
ROY STILL HASN'T COME HOME YET.
IT'S REALLY BUGGING ME OUT.
HE HASN'T COME BY YOUR PLACE, HAS HE?
HAL? WHAT'S WRONG?
HELLO?
CHT KLIKLIKLIK
CHTKLIKLIK
SARAH! IT'S ME.
SORRY TO CALL SO LATE.
HE ALWAYS CALLS AROUND DINNER TIME!
HE HASN'T EVEN CALLED ONCE!
JUST LIKE CLOCK-WORK!
HE'S NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE!
BUT IT'S ONLY ONE NIGHT...
NO, HE HASN'T.

CLATCH
RATTLE RATTLE
I'M GONNA LOOK FOR HIM.
BYE.
HAL, WAIT!
I'LL COME WITH YOU!
OH.
SORRY ...DID I WORRY YOU?
I MEANT TO CALL YOU, BUT...

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! YOU SELFISH JERK!
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST COME AND GO WHENEVER YOU LIKE?!
YOU...
SLAM!
CHA
.....

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE THOUGHTFUL, DUMMY.
GET IN HERE!
ROY?!

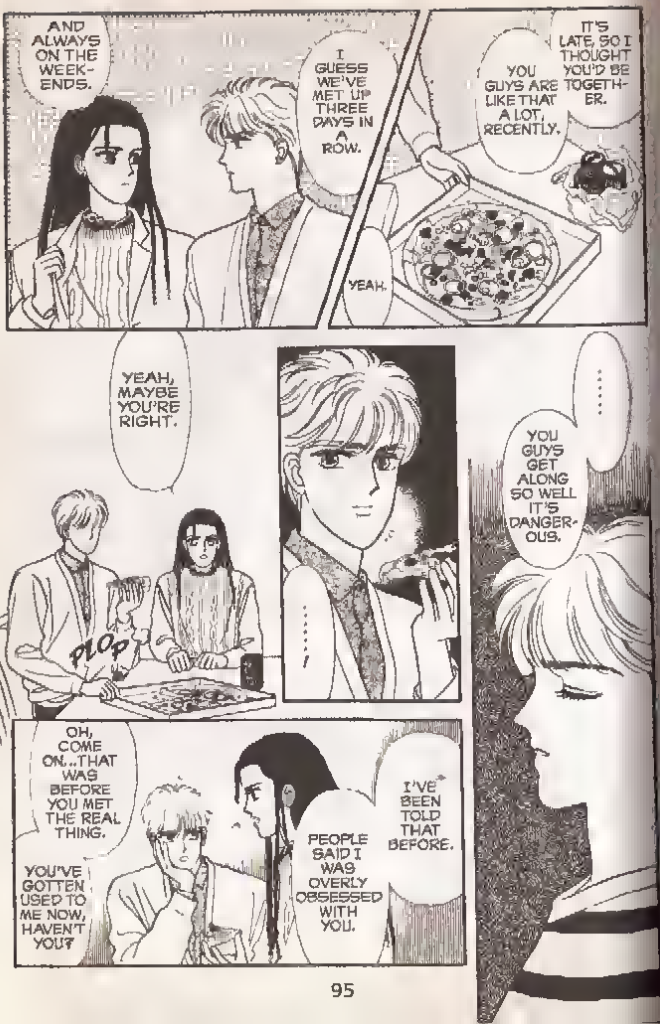
DON'T LOOK AT ME..
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GO...
KAUNA
I'M NOT LOOK-ING.
SO COME ON.


SORRY.
.....
I'VE EVEN CALLED SARAH.
YOU COULD'VE CONTACTED ME.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO APOLOGIZE!
IT'S JUST ...
.....
UH... I, UH...
I JUST FELT LIKE WORRYING, IS WHAT I MEAN.
That's not really accurate
THAT'S ALL.
THANK YOU.

HAL.
I'VE NEVER REALLY HAD A PROPER FRIENDSHIP BEFORE
IS THIS WHAT IT'S ALWAYS LIKE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME, EITHER.
Shuuu
IT FEELS LIKE...
...YOU'RE MY GUARDIAN ANGEL.
HMPH
YOU DUMMY.
.....

YOU REALLY..
...DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

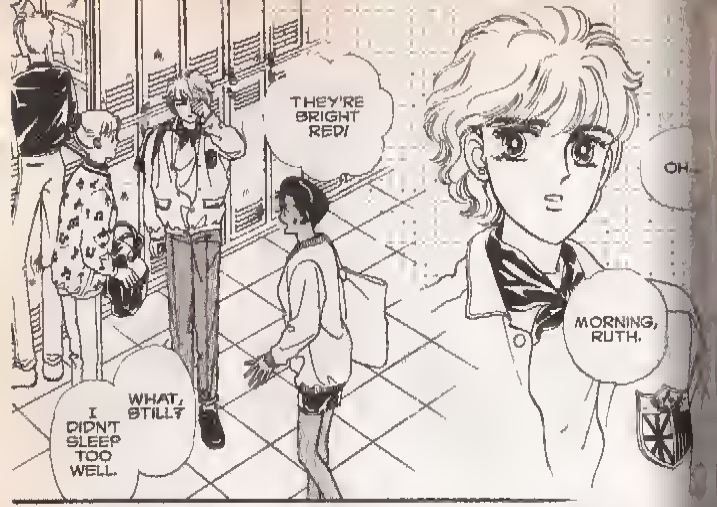
KINDA COLD TODAY.
YOU'RE NOT WEARING MUCH CLOTHES TODAY, BOSS
IT REALLY IS FREEZING OUT THERE.
CLATTER CLATTER
P.S.P.
OH, HEY.
SO YOU CAME HERE, ANISE.
YEAH.
CLATCH


AND ALWAYS ON THE WEEK-ENDS.
I GUESS WE'VE MET UP THREE DAYS IN A ROW.
YEAH.
IT'S LATE, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TOGETH-ER.
YOU GUYS ARE LIKE THAT A LOT, RECENTLY.
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
PLOP
.....
YOU GUYS GET ALONG SO WELL IT'S DANGER-OUS.
OH, COME ON...THAT WAS BEFORE YOU MET THE REAL THING.
YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TO ME NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
PEOPLE SAID I WAS OVERLY OBSESSED WITH YOU.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT BEFORE.

CLATTER
YOU'VE GRADUALLY BECOME A PERSON TO ME.
IT'S MORE LIKE ..
OH... OKAY.
BE CARE-FUL.
I'M GOING HOME.
BYE.
NO...
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU.
SHE ...
... REALLY HATES ME.
CLATCH
.....

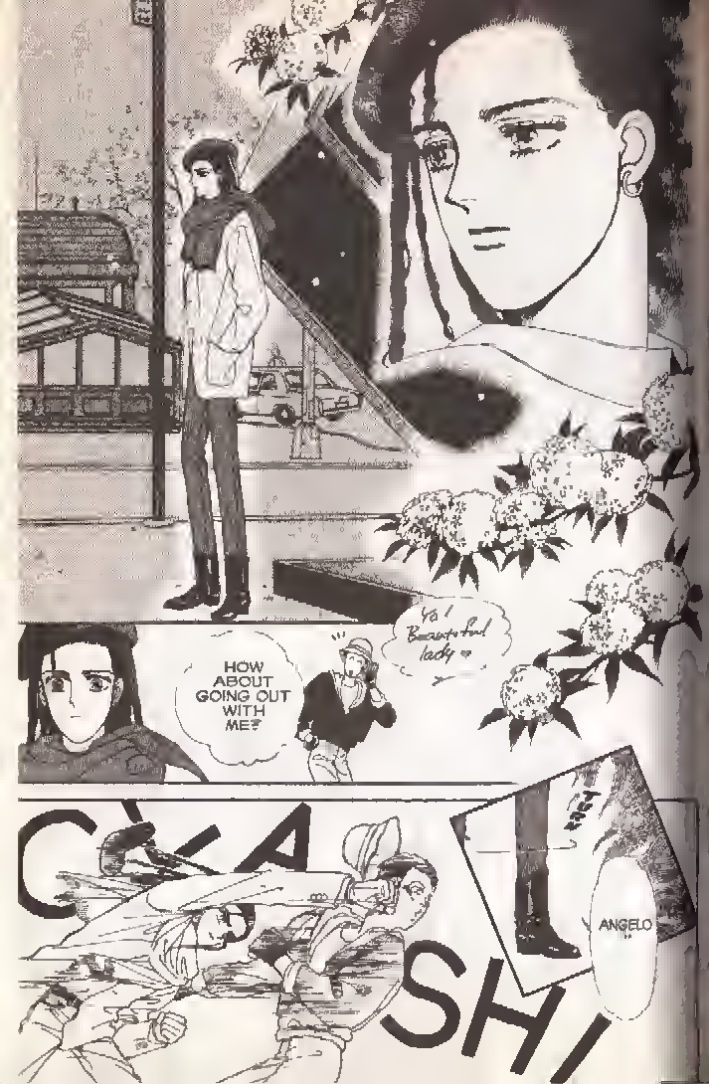
NO!
DON'T SIT IN THE THIRD SEAT!
THAT'S CIPHER'S SPOT.
DON'T TAKE IT!

MMR
MMR
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOUR EYES...
A-ANISE...


THEY'RE BRIGHT RED!
OH...
MORNING, RUTH.
WHAT, STILL?
I DIDN'T SLEEP TOO WELL.

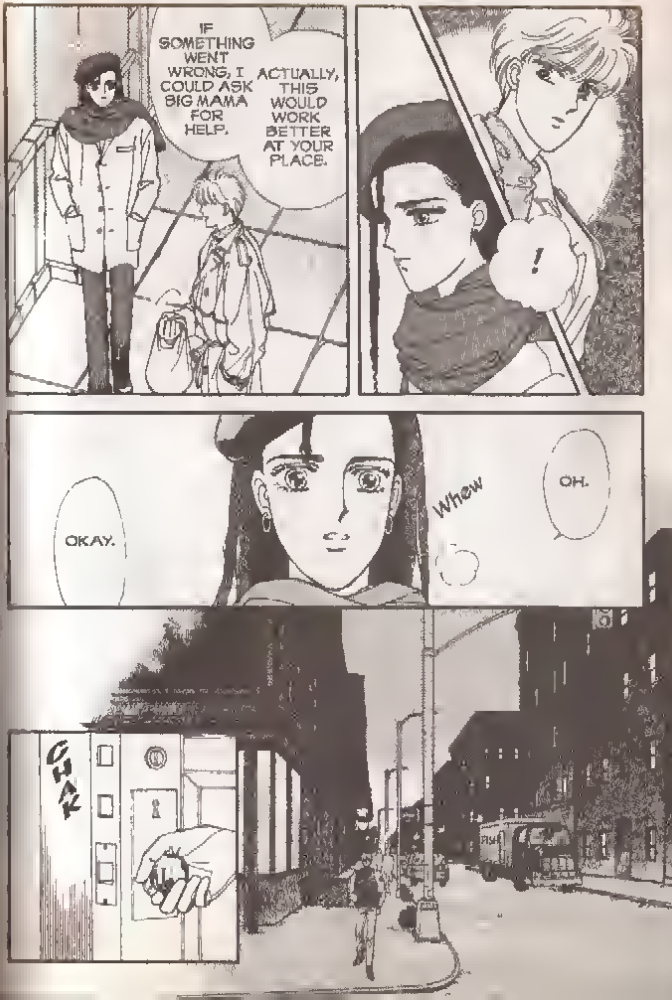
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT BY GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP TONIGHT.
I KEPT DOZING OFF, BUT I NEVER REALLY FELL ASLEEP.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.
.....

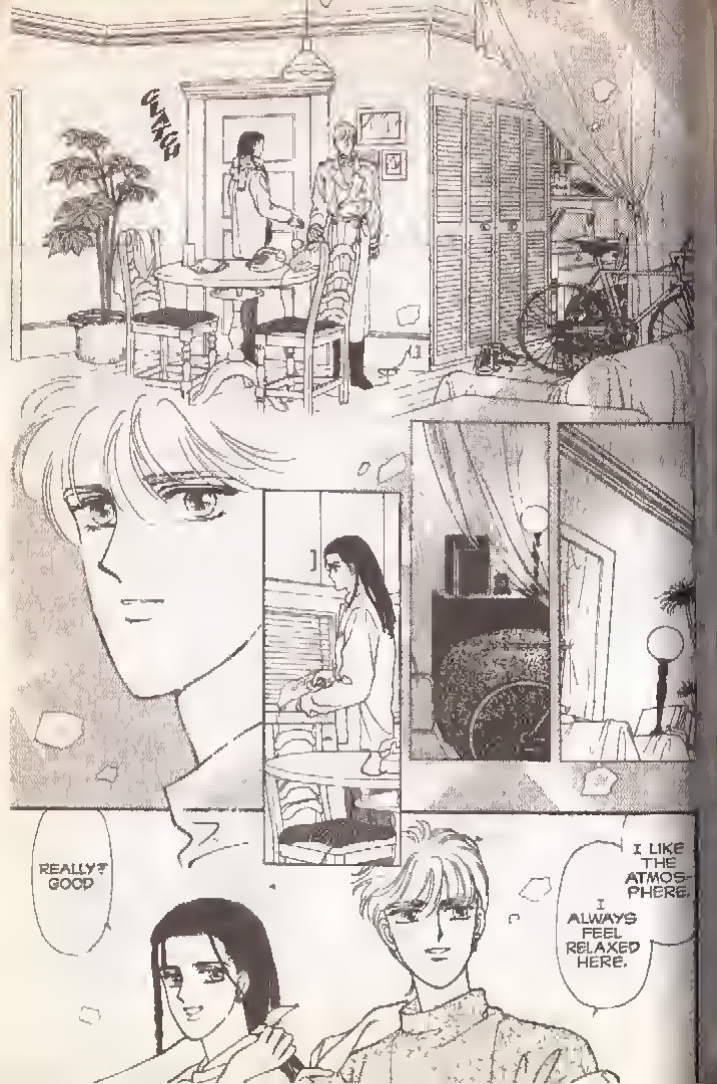
OF COURSE IT IS!
I THOUGHT SIVA HAD QUIT PARTYING ALL NIGHT.
BUT I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE.
THAT ANISE ...
IT'S GETTING SO SHE WON'T TALK ANYMORE.
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
THERE'S A NEW RUMOR ABOUT HIM...
BUT ACTUALLY...
BEAU..
BEAUTIFUL GIRL?!
RECENTLY
HE'S BEEN GOING AROUND WITH THIS REALLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

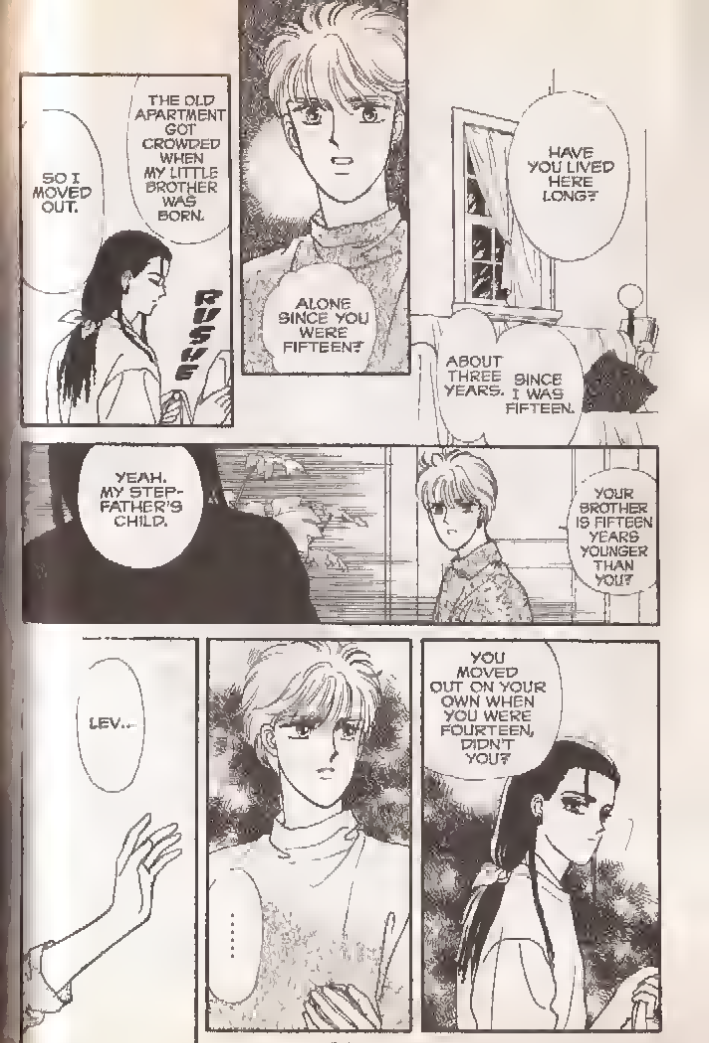

HOW ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ME?
Ya! Beautiful lady
ANGELO
C'A
SHI

IF YOU EVER SAY THAT AGAIN.../
CHUP
HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YOU?
I'M A GUY.
GOT IT?
UGH...
CUT IT OUT, LEVINE.
IF YOU HIT HIM FOR REAL, YOU'LL KILL HIM.
BOSS.
Studies karate, too
THUD
SORRY I'M LATE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

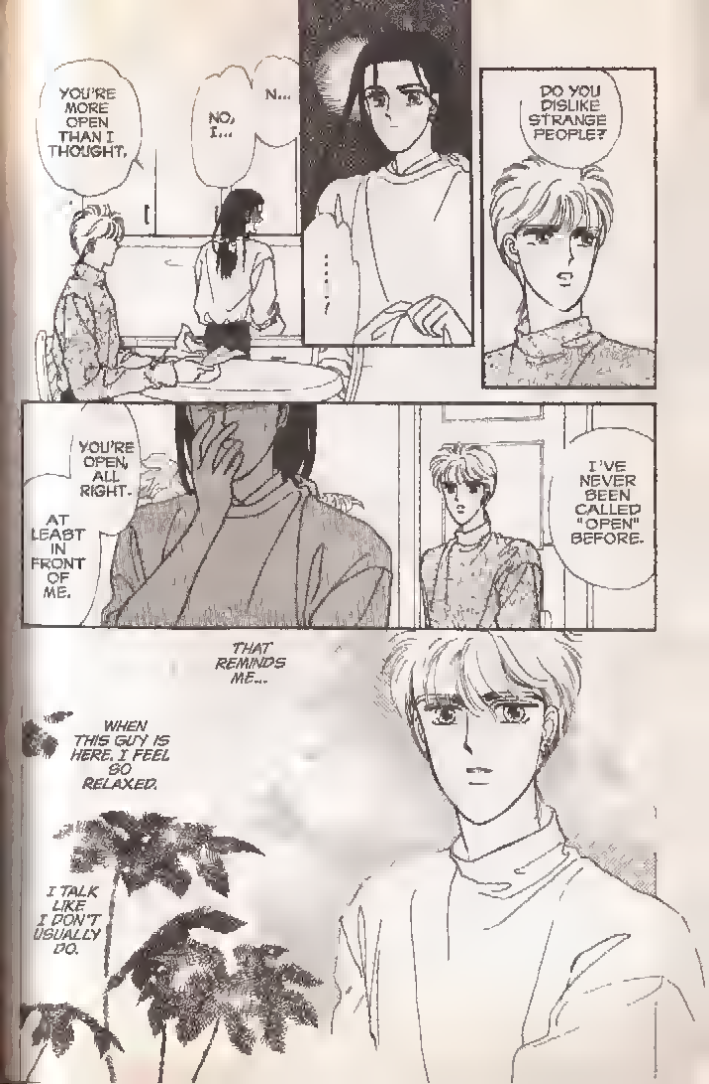
...
HE ALWAYS MAKES FUN OF ME.
I HATE THAT GUY!
HOW COME?
...
YOU'RE BEING OVER-SENSITIVE.
MAYBE HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.
THAT'S IT?
DUNNO.
WHAT ABOUT ANISE?
IS... SHE COMING?
RUSTLE
ANYWAY, COME TO MY HOUSE
I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MATZO I WANT YOU TO TRY IT.
SHE REALLY HATES ME...


IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG, I COULD ASK BIG MAMA FOR HELP.
ACTUALLY, THIS WOULD WORK BETTER AT YOUR PLACE.
!
OKAY.
Whew
OH.
CHAK

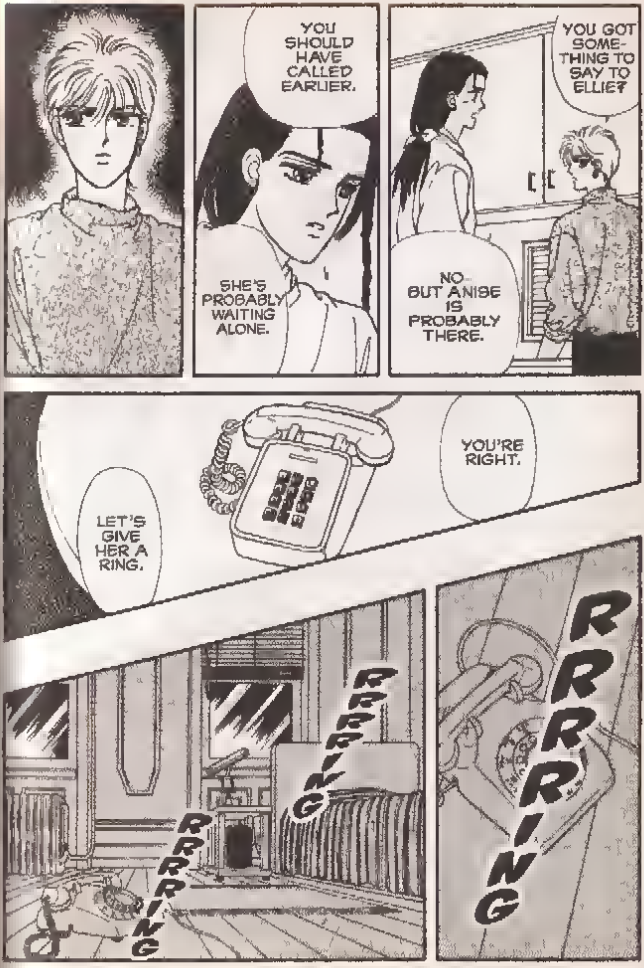

CLANG
I LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE.
I ALWAYS FEEL RELAXED HERE.
REALLY? GOOD


HAVE YOU LIVED HERE LONG?
ABOUT THREE YEARS. SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN.
ALONE SINCE YOU WERE FIFTEEN?
THE OLD APARTMENT GOT CROWDED WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS BORN.
SO I MOVED OUT.
RUSU
YOUR BROTHER IS FIFTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU?
YEAH. MY STEP-FATHER'S CHILD.
YOU MOVED OUT ON YOUR OWN WHEN YOU WERE FOURTEEN, DIDN'T YOU?
.....
LEV...

WH-WH WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OH, I JUST THOUGHT IT HAD A NICE SHAPE.
DO AAA AAT
ON AHUR
FWAP
HOW'D WE END UP TALKING ABOUT THIS?
?
PANIC
REALLY? THANKS
Grin
WELL YOUR IS PRET TOO
EM-BAR-RASSED
YOU..
YOU'RE EVEN STRANGER THAN I IMAGINED.


YOU'RE MORE OPEN THAN I THOUGHT.
NO, I...
N...
.....?
DO YOU DISLIKE STRANGE PEOPLE?
YOU'RE OPEN, ALL RIGHT.
AT LEAST IN FRONT OF ME.
I'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED "OPEN" BEFORE.
THAT REMINDS ME...
WHEN THIS GUY IS HERE, I FEEL SO RELAXED.
I TALK LIKE I DON'T USUALLY DO.

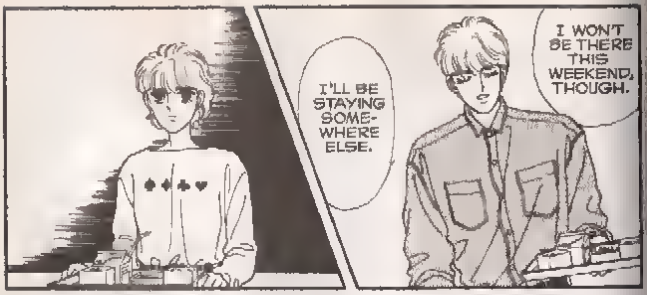
HIM, TOO.
HE LOOKS SO HAPPY.
HEY ...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE A CALL HOME?
.....

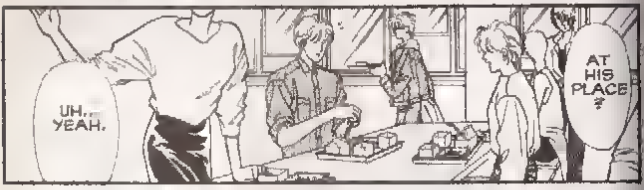

YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED EARLIER.
SHE'S PROBABLY WAITING ALONE.
YOU GOT SOME-THING TO SAY TO ELLIE?
NO- BUT ANISE IS PROBABLY THERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S GIVE HER A RING.
RRRRING
RRRRING
RRRRING

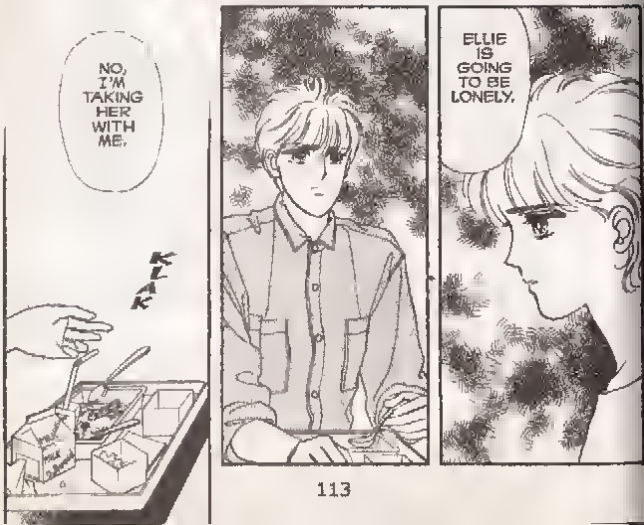
I FEEL LIKE MUSIC HAS GOTTEN REALLY IMPORTANT IN MY DAILY LIFE. WHEN I FINALLY GET A DAY OFF, I GO TO RECORD SHOPS OR MUSIC CLUBS. SO FAR THIS YEAR I'VE SEEN FISHBONE, PRINCE AND DURAN DURAN. AT THE FISHBONE SHOW I DREW TAT TOOS ON MY ARM WITH A MARKER PEN AND DANCED TILL I WAS COVERED IN SWEAT.

AT THE DURAN DURAN CONCERT IN THE BIG EGG, I HAD A SEAT IN THE 9TH ROW CENTER. SO THE MOMENT I STOOD UP I HAD A CRICK IN MY NECK. HOW LAME! THE BEST OF ALL WAS PRINCE! HE'S SO OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE AND HE MAKES THE AUDIENCE SO HAPPY. I RESPECT PRINCE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

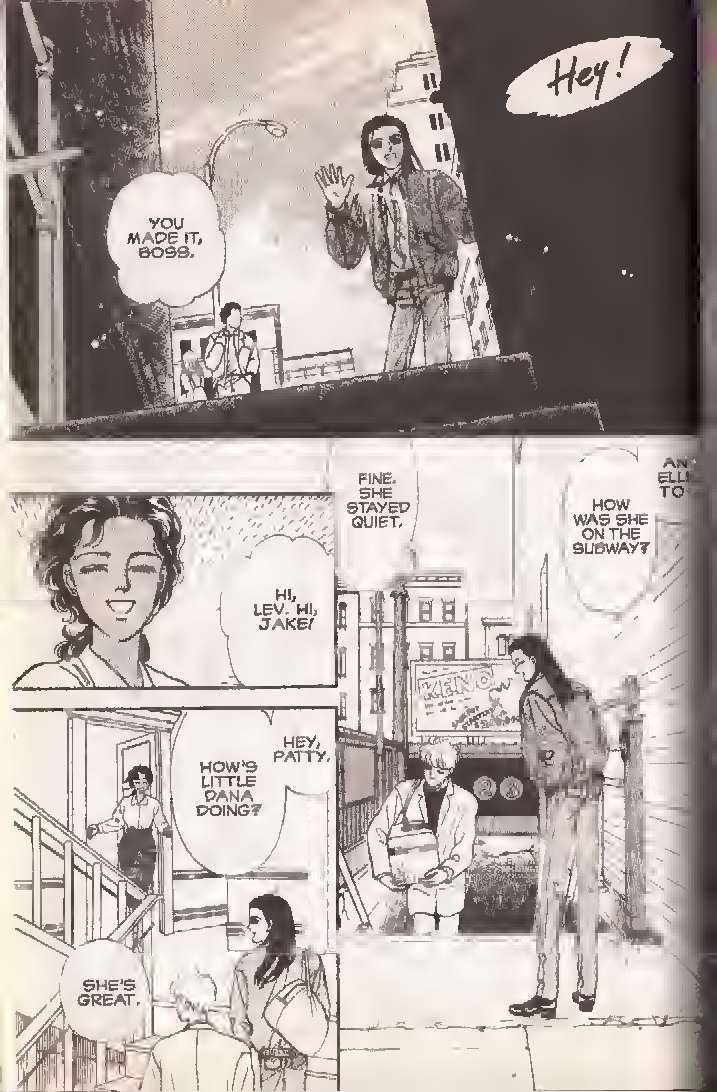
Mmm
mmm
DID YOU GO TO MY PLACE YESTERDAY?
ANISE.
I DROPPED BY WITHOUT CALLING AHEAD.
OH, DON'T BE
YEAH. I PLAYED WITH ELLIE FOR A WHILE, AND THEN WENT HOME.
SURE.
IS IT OKAY IF I STILL COME OVER?
FROM NOW ON, I'LL CALL FIRST.
OH SORRY.

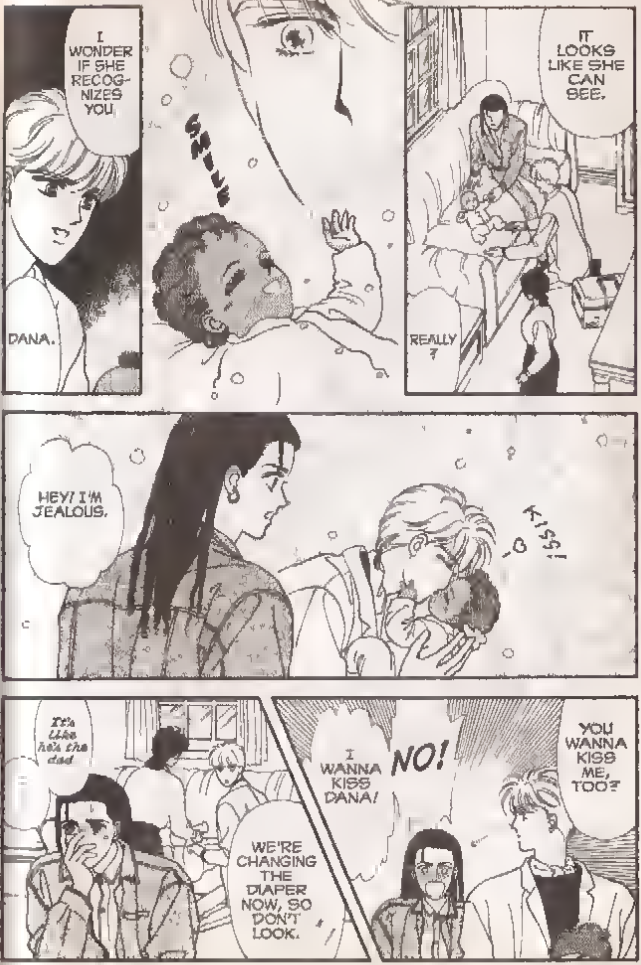

I'LL BE STAYING SOME-WHERE ELSE.
I WON'T BE THERE THIS WEEKEND, THOUGH.

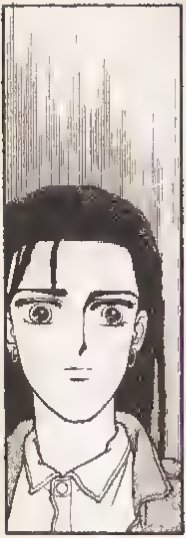

UH... YEAH.
AT HIS PLACE?

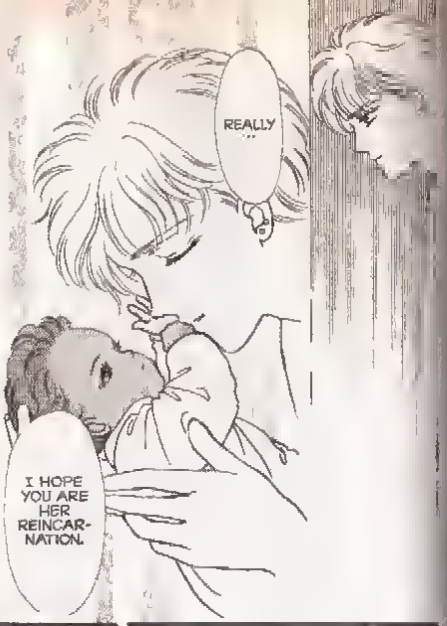

NO, I'M TAKING HER WITH ME.
KLAK
ELLIE IS GOING TO BE LONELY.

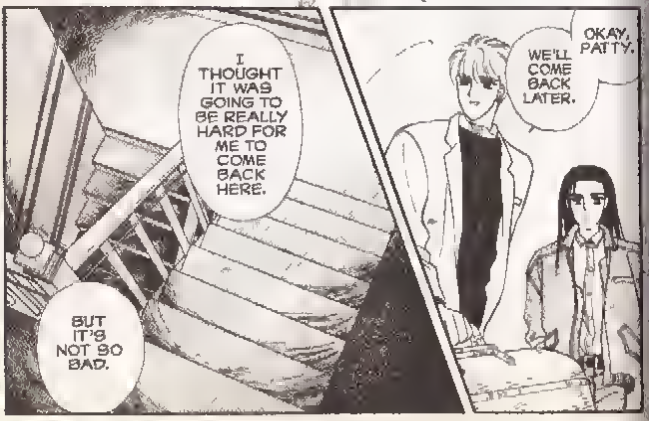
WHEN ANISE IS AROUND, IT MAKES ME THINK OF THAT MISSING "THIRD PERSON."
FORGIVE ME, ANISE.
THE PERSON WHO I WANT TO FORGET ABOUT.

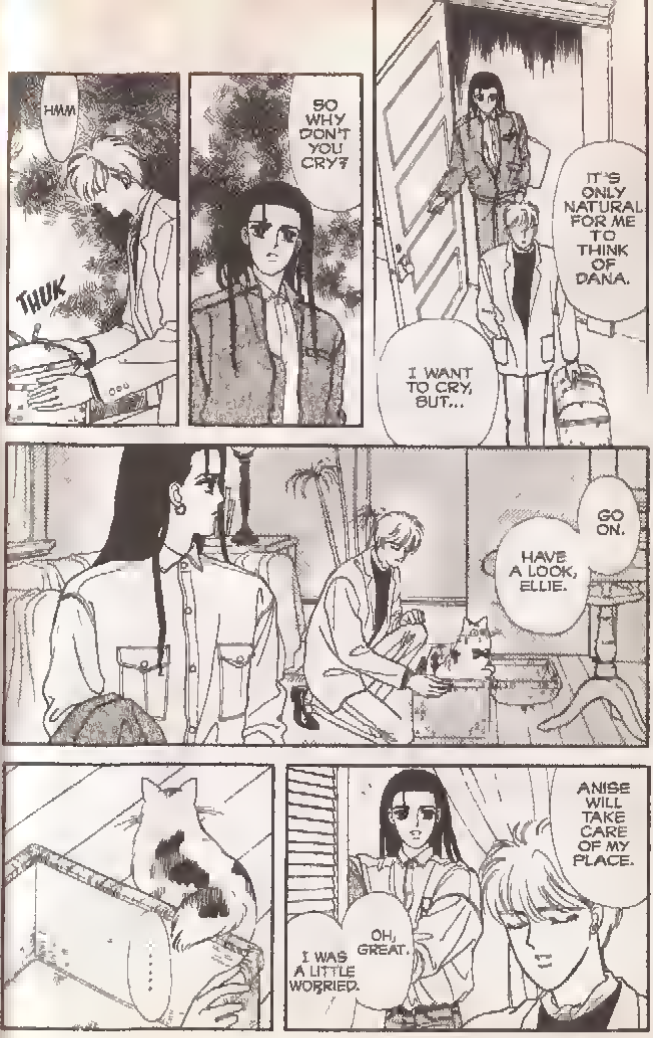

Hey!
YOU MADE IT, BOSS.
HOW WAS SHE ON THE SUBWAY?
FINE. SHE STAYED QUIET.
AN ELL TO
HI, LEV. HI, JAKE!
HEY, PATTY.
HOW'S LITTLE DANA DOING?
SHE'S GREAT.


I WONDER IF SHE RECOGNIZES YOU.
DANA.
GRRRR
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN SEE.
REALLY?
HEY! I'M JEALOUS.
KISS!
It's like he's the dad
WE'RE CHANGING THE DIAPER NOW, SO DON'T LOOK.
I WANNA KISS DANA!
NO!
YOU WANNA KISS ME, TOO?

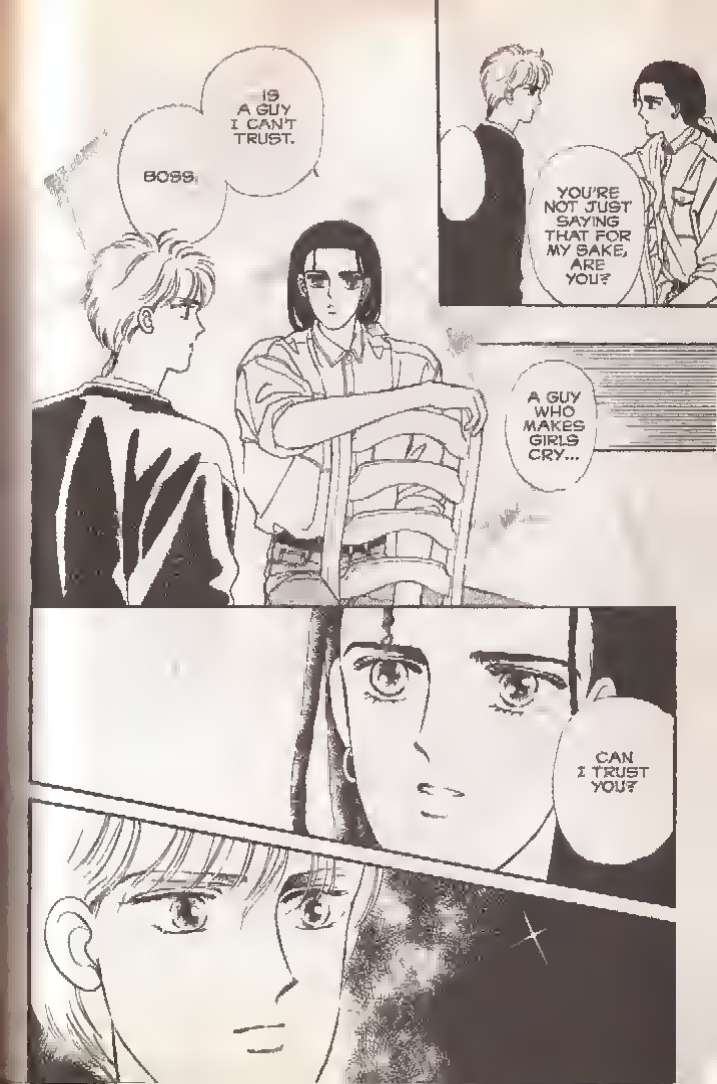


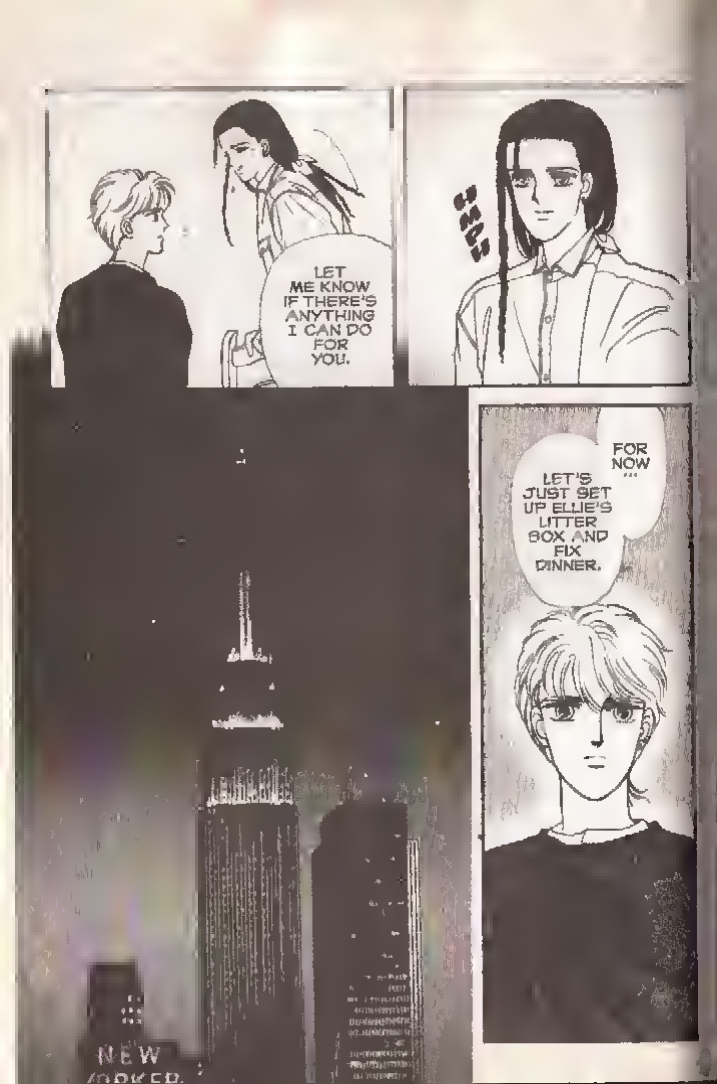

REALLY...
I HOPE YOU ARE HER REINCARNATION.

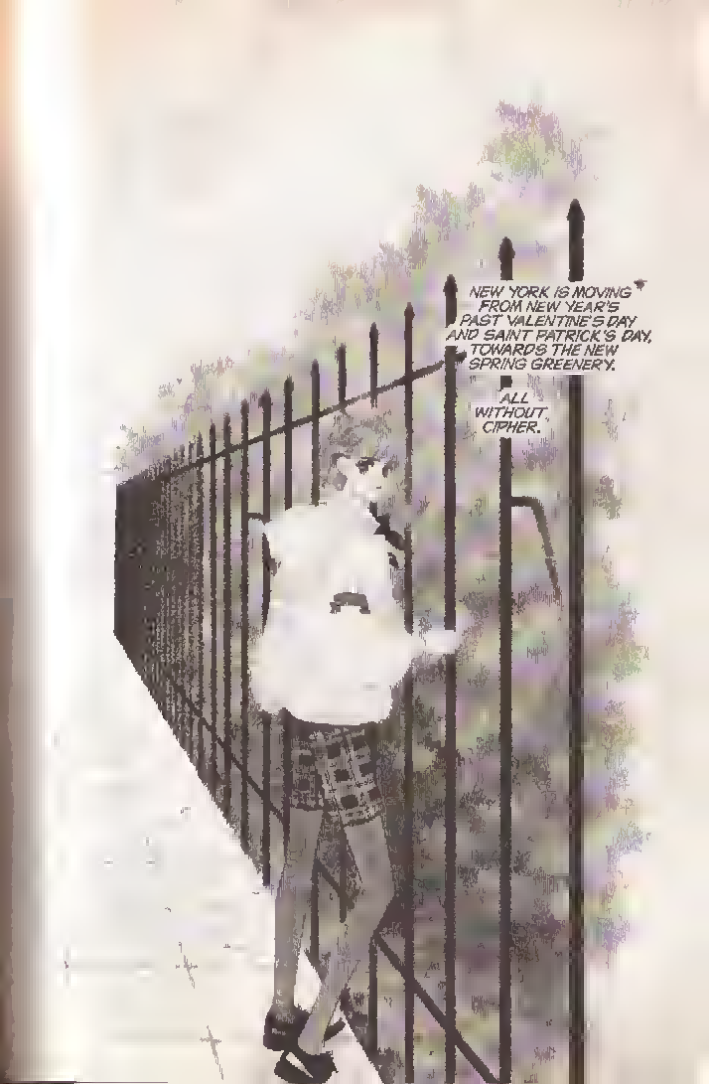

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE REALLY HARD FOR ME TO COME BACK HERE.
BUT IT'S NOT SO BAD.
OKAY, PATTY.
WE'LL COME BACK LATER.

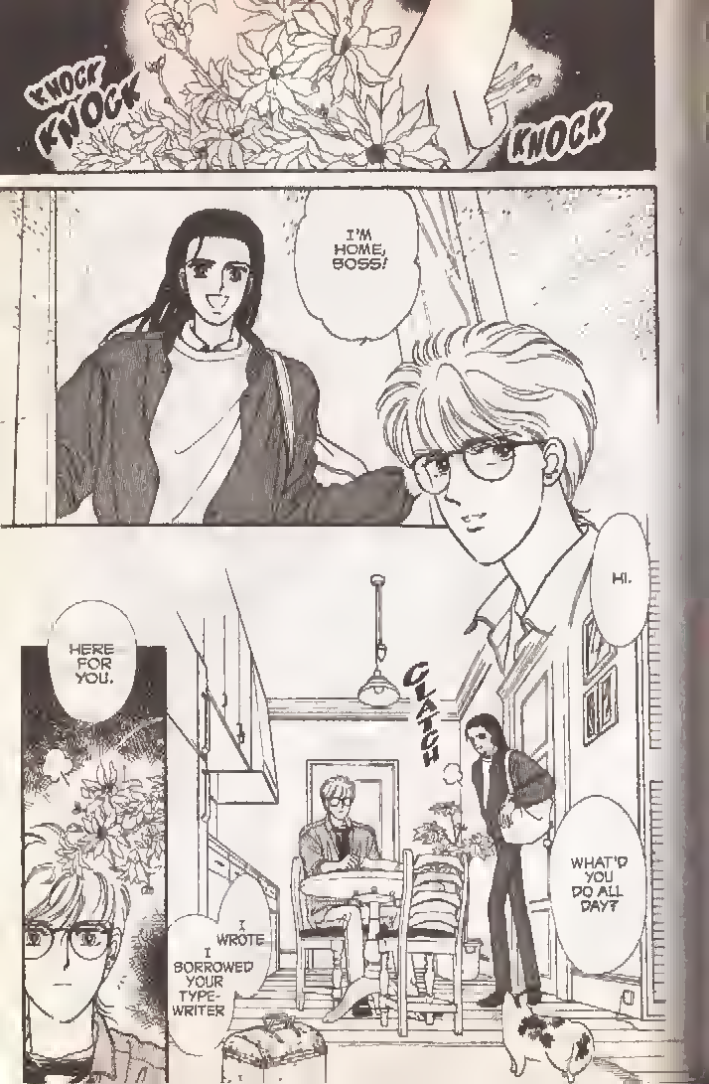

IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR ME TO THINK OF DANA.
I WANT TO CRY, BUT...
SO WHY DON'T YOU CRY?
HMM
THUK
GO ON.
HAVE A LOOK, ELLIE.
ANISE WILL TAKE CARE OF MY PLACE.
OH, GREAT.
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.
.....

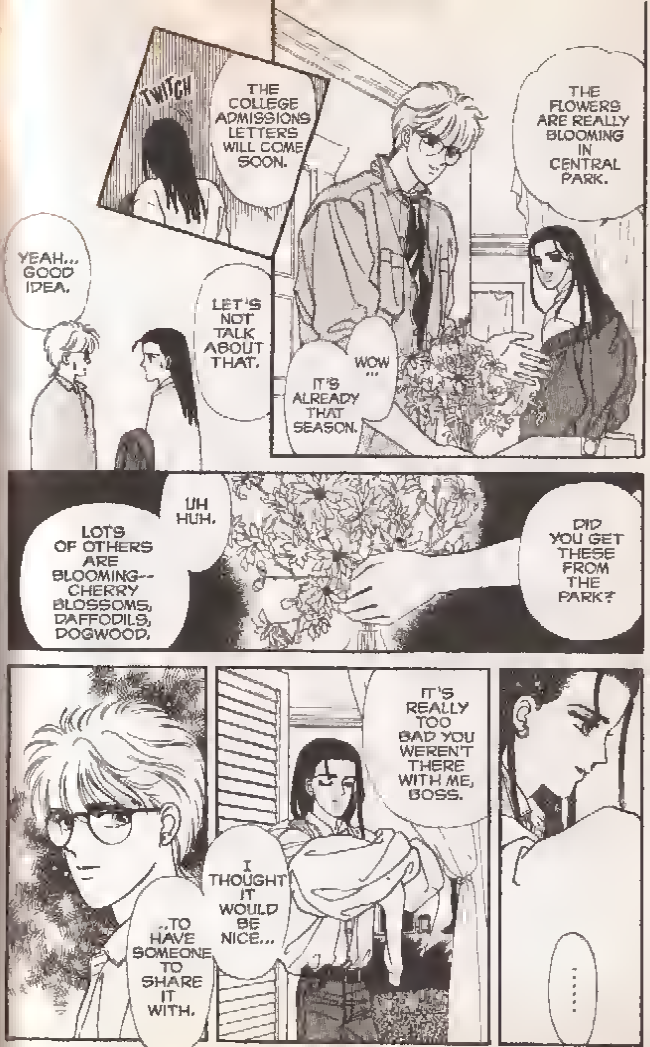
YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ME ABOUT ANISE.
IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT HER, I WANT TO HEAR IT.
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HER?
BUT IT FELT LIKE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TOUCH ON IT.
NO... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S BAD.
I GET THE FEELING I'M HURTING HER.
AND YET ...

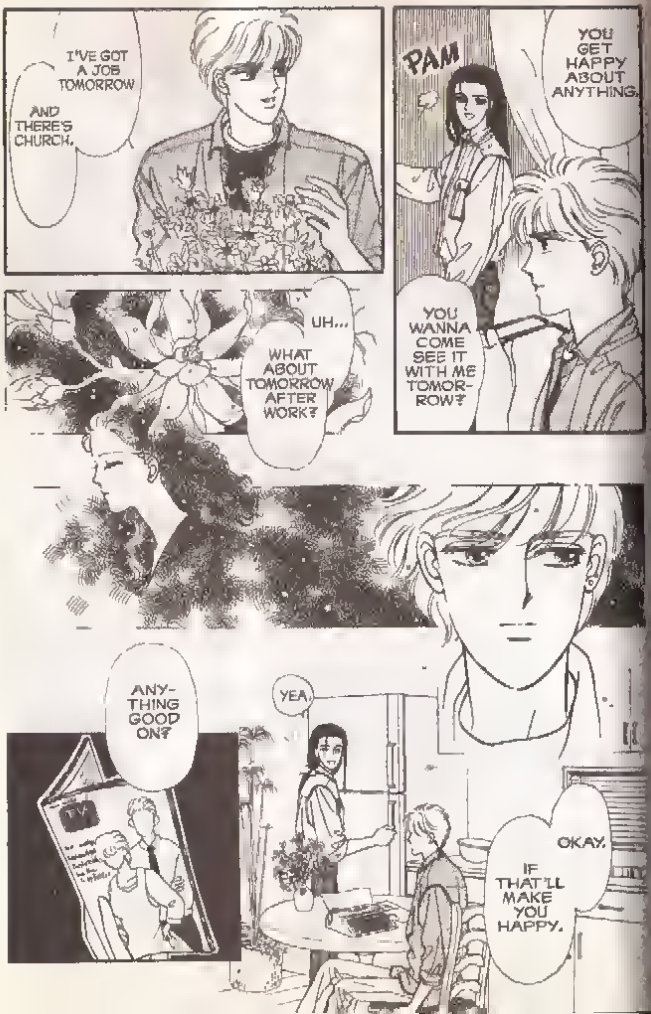

BOSS.
IS A GUY I CAN'T TRUST.
YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT FOR MY SAKE, ARE YOU?
A GUY WHO MAKES GIRLS CRY...
CAN I TRUST YOU?


LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU.
HMP
FOR NOW ...
LET'S JUST SET UP ELLIE'S LITTER BOX AND FIX DINNER.
NEW


NEW YORK IS MOVING FROM NEW YEAR'S PAST VALENTINE'S DAY AND SAINT PATRICK'S DAY, TOWARDS THE NEW SPRING GREENERY.
ALL WITHOUT CIPHER.

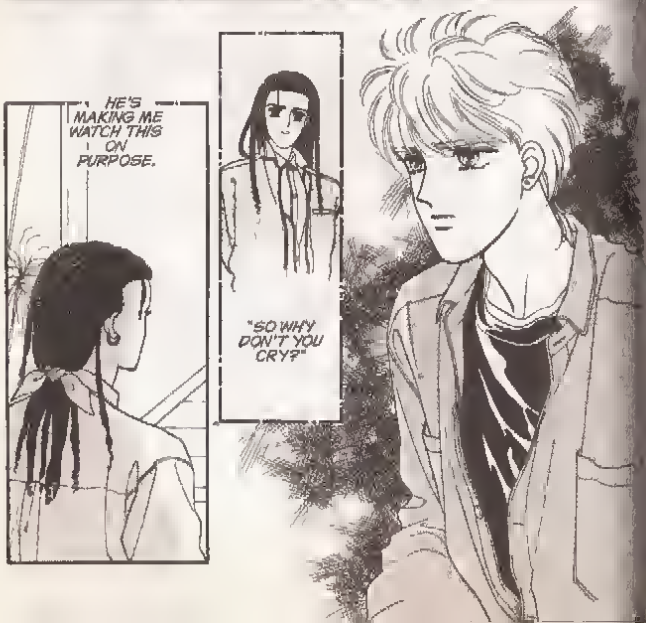

KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK
I'M HOME, BOSS!
HI.
CLATTER
WHAT'D YOU DO ALL DAY?
I WROTE
I BORROWED YOUR TYPE-WRITER
HERE FOR YOU.


THE FLOWERS ARE REALLY BLOOMING IN CENTRAL PARK.
WOW...
IT'S ALREADY THAT SEASON.
TWITCH
THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS LETTERS WILL COME SOON.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT.
YEAH... GOOD IDEA.
DID YOU GET THESE FROM THE PARK?
UH HUH.
LOTS OF OTHERS ARE BLOOMING-- CHERRY BLOSSOMS, DAFFODILS, DOGWOOD.
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD YOU WEREN'T THERE WITH ME, BOSS.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE...
..TO HAVE SOMEONE TO SHARE IT WITH.
.....

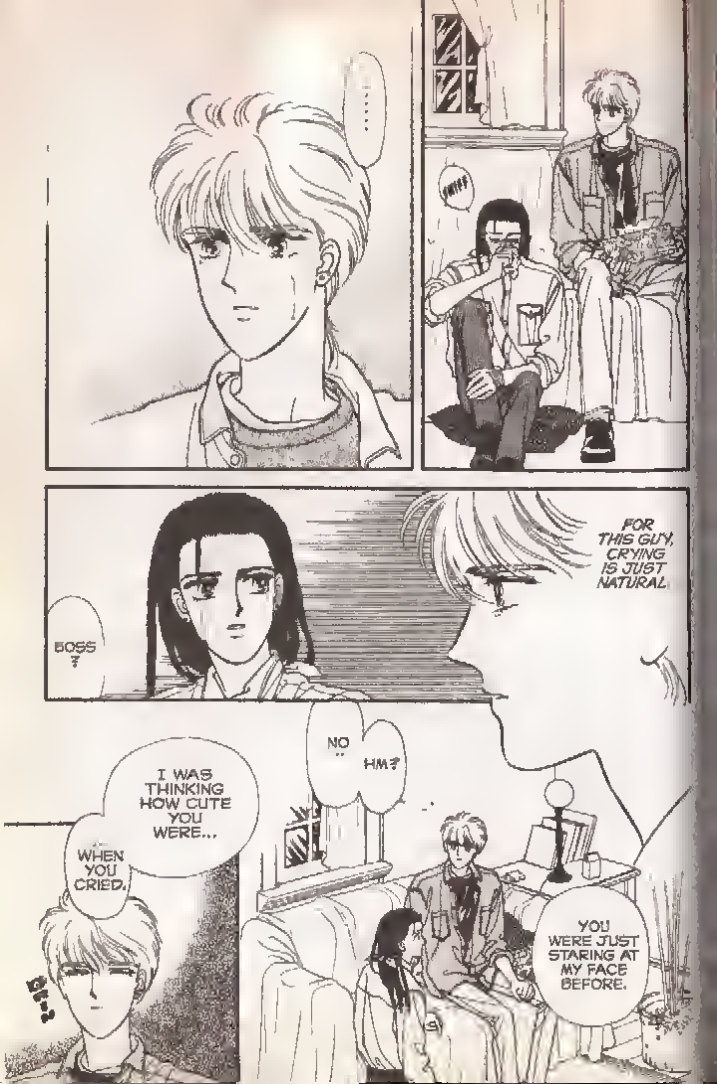

I'VE GOT A JOB TOMORROW
AND THERE'S CHURCH.
PAM
YOU GET HAPPY ABOUT ANYTHING.
YOU WANNA COME SEE IT WITH ME TOMOR-ROW?
UH...
WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW AFTER WORK?
ANY-THING GOOD ON?
YEA.
OKAY.
IF THAT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.

OOH! "A STAR IS BORN" IS ABOUT TO START.
WHO'S IN THAT? JUDY GARLAND?
THIS IS THE ONE WITH BARBARA STREISAND.
THERE'VE BEEN A BUNCH OF REMAKES
OH..
SHH
BUT THIS ONE IS GOOD.
I SAW IT ON TV A WHILE BACK.
WHAT'S THE PLOT?
IT SOUNDS BORING IF YOU TELL IT.
IT'S ABOUT HER RISE TO STARDOM.
WHAT'S THAT?

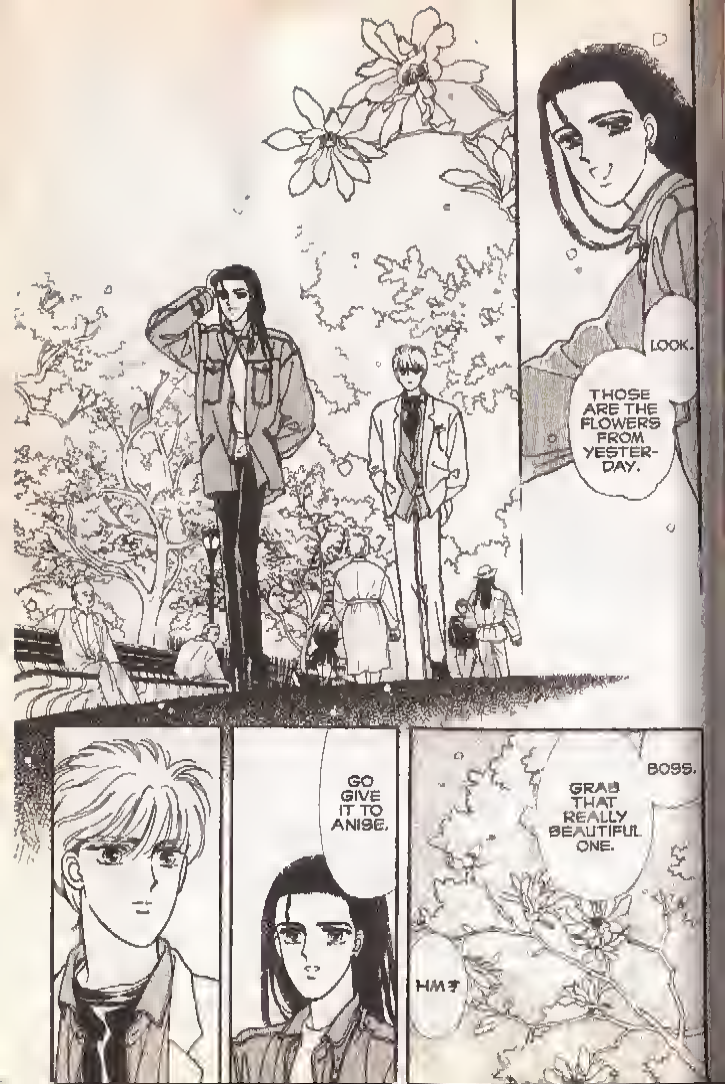
SO HER LOVER DIES...

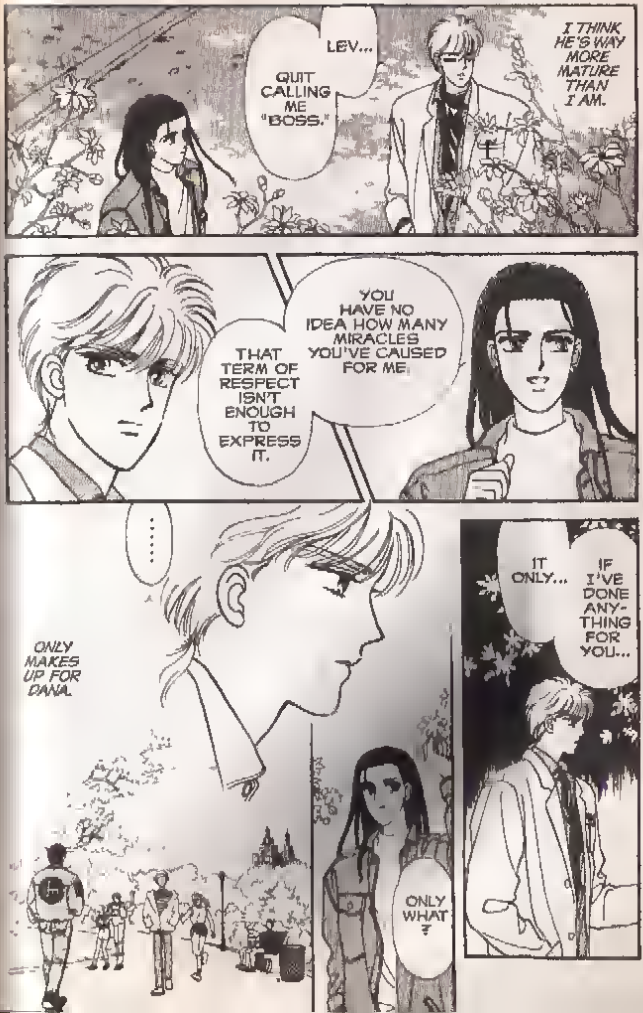

HE'S MAKING ME WATCH THIS ON PURPOSE.
"SO WHY DON'T YOU CRY?"

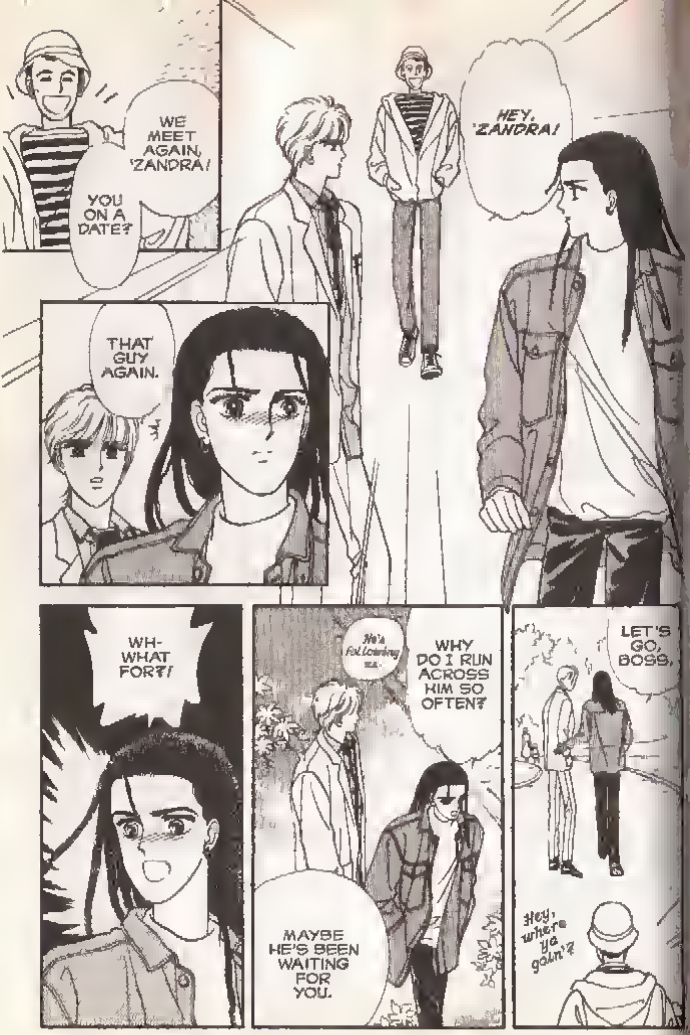
ON PURPOSE!
.....
THAT BASTARD.
SNIFF
HERE.

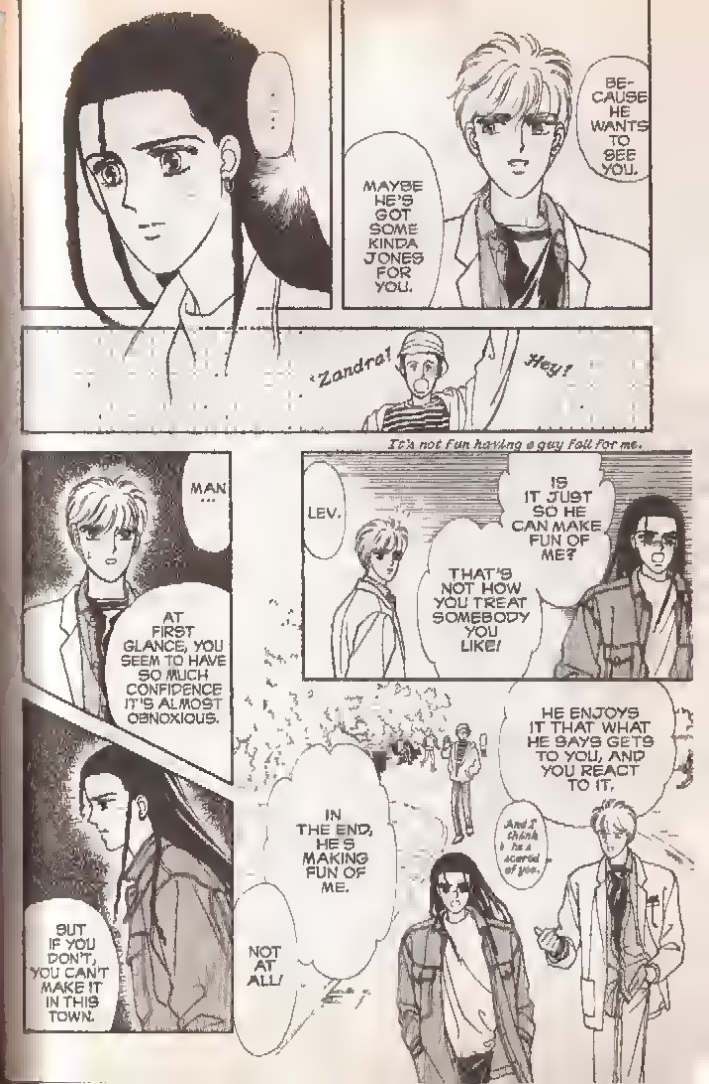

.....
sniff
FOR THIS GUY, CRYING IS JUST NATURAL.
BOSS ?
NO .. HM?
YOU WERE JUST STARING AT MY FACE BEFORE.
I WAS THINKING HOW CUTE YOU WERE...
WHEN YOU CRIED.
ぼーっ

UM...
...CUTE?
HOW...
LAUGHING HONESTLY, CRYING HONESTLY.
I CAN BE MY REAL SELF HERE.

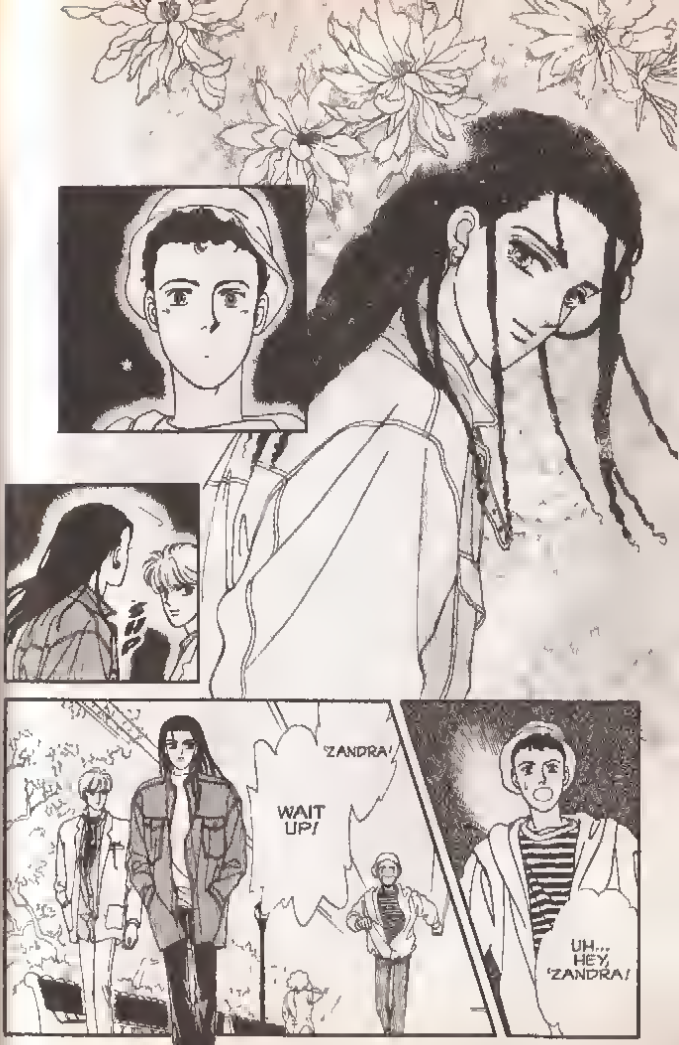

LOOK.
THOSE ARE THE FLOWERS FROM YESTERDAY.
BOSS.
GRAB THAT REALLY BEAUTIFUL ONE.
HM?
GO GIVE IT TO ANISE.


I THINK HE'S WAY MORE MATURE THAN I AM.
LEV...
QUIT CALLING ME "BOSS."
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY MIRACLES YOU'VE CAUSED FOR ME.
THAT TERM OF RESPECT ISN'T ENOUGH TO EXPRESS IT.
IF I'VE DONE ANY-THING FOR YOU...
IT ONLY...
.....
ONLY MAKES UP FOR DANA.
ONLY WHAT?


WE MEET AGAIN, 'ZANDRA!
YOU ON A DATE?
HEY, 'ZANDRA!
THAT GUY AGAIN.
WH-WHAT FOR?!
He's following us.
WHY DO I RUN ACROSS HIM SO OFTEN?
MAYBE HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
LET'S GO, BOSS.
Hey, where ya goin'?


MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME KINDA JONES FOR YOU.
BE-CAUSE HE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
'Zandra!
Hey!
It's not fun having a guy fall for me.
MAN ...
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SO MUCH CONFIDENCE IT'S ALMOST OBNOXIOUS.
BUT IF YOU DON'T, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT IN THIS TOWN.
LEV.
IS IT JUST SO HE CAN MAKE FUN OF ME?
THAT'S NOT HOW YOU TREAT SOMEBODY YOU LIKE!
IN THE END, HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME.
NOT AT ALL!
HE ENJOYS IT THAT WHAT HE SAYS GETS TO YOU, AND YOU REACT TO IT.
And I think it's a record of you.

WELL THEN...
LAUGH A LITTLE MORE AND TALK TO HIM.
LET'S TRY A LITTLE SOMETHING HERE.
LISTEN.
HEY, 'ZANDRA, LOOK OVER HERE! SAY SOMETHING!

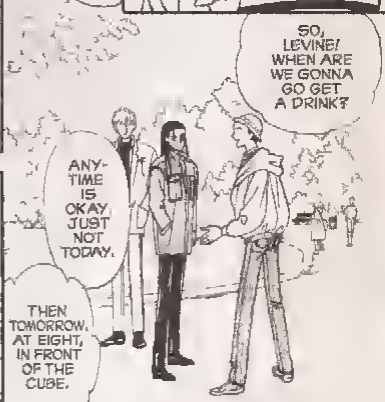

'ZANDRA!
WAIT UP!
UH... HEY, 'ZANDRA!

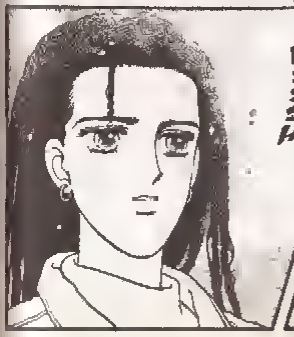
COME OUT WITH ME SOMETIME.
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
GRAB
NEVER, EVER...
...CALL ME "ZANDRA" AGAIN, GOT IT?!
.....
DO THAT AND I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.
WHOA...

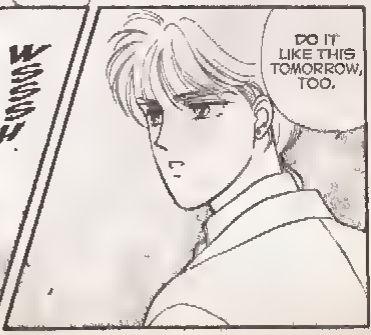
Don't forget!

OKAY! THAT'S COOL!
HOW ABOUT I CALL YOU BY YOUR LAST NAME?

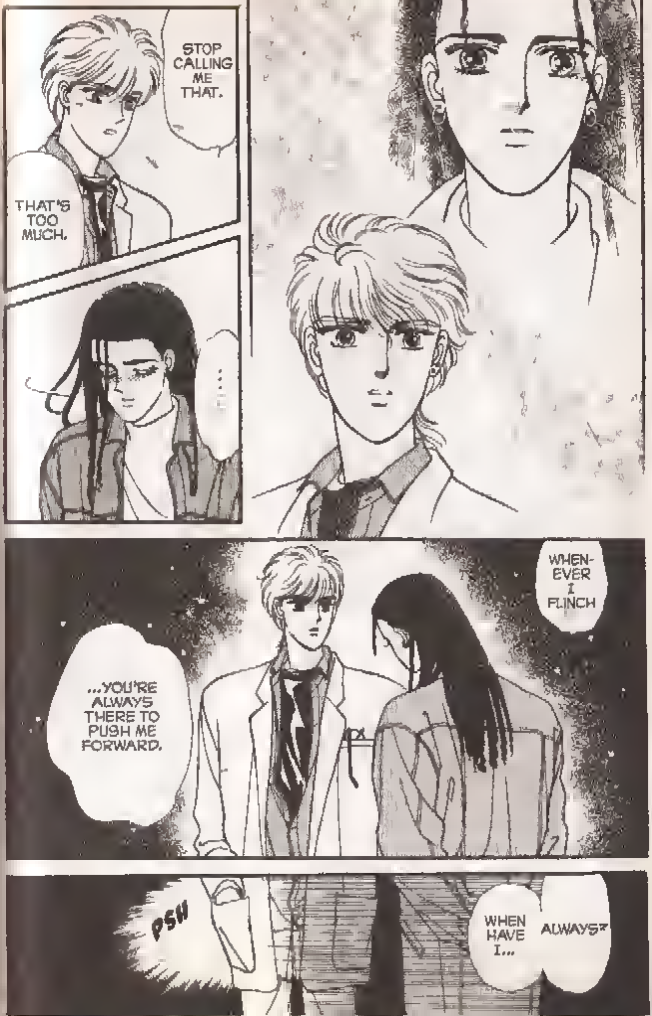
KNOCK

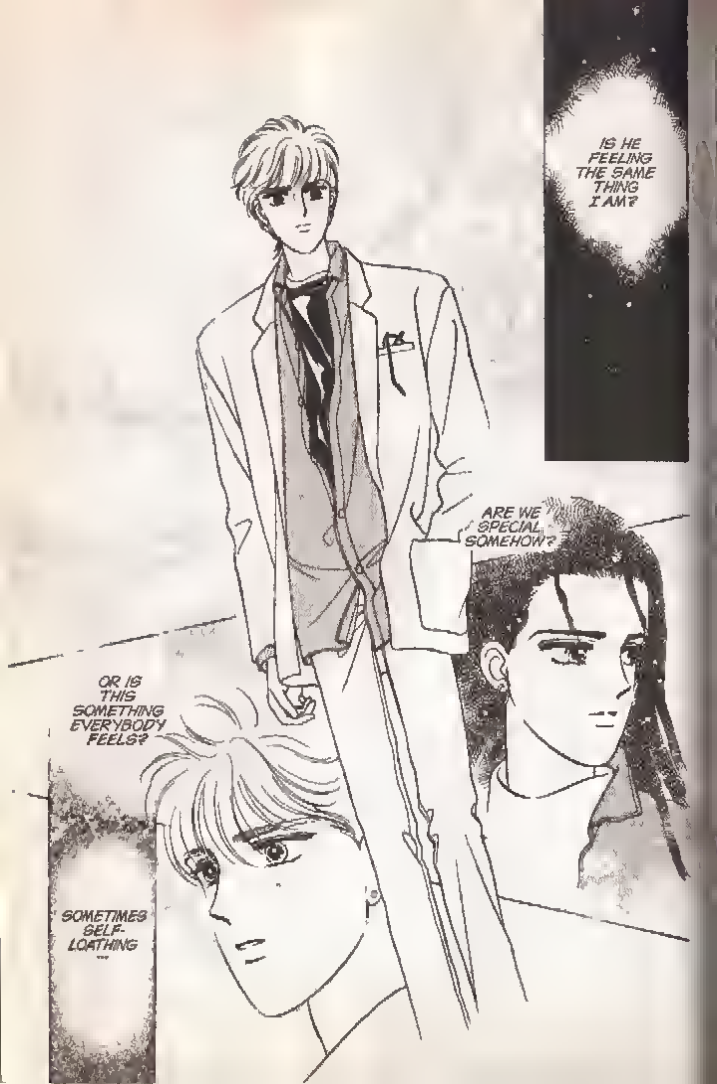

SO, LEVINE! WHEN ARE WE GONNA GO GET A DRINK?
ANY-TIME IS OKAY, JUST NOT TODAY.
THEN TOMORROW. AT EIGHT, IN FRONT OF THE CUBE.


WOOSH


DO IT LIKE THIS TOMORROW, TOO.

"CIPHER THE VIDEO" WHICH GOES ON SALE IN MARCH IS GETTING GREAT REVIEWS. THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT A COPY!! THIS IS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE SELLING AN ANIME VIDEO, SO I GET THE FEELING I WAS DREAMING AS IT ALL CAME TOGETHER.
IF YOU SEE IT LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF IT
WE WERE REALLY LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO USE A SONG BY THE THOMPSON TWINS IN THE VIDEO. FATE IS A STRANGE THING. NOW THAT THEIR GREATEST HITS ALBUM IS BEING RELEASED IN JAPAN, I'VE BEEN TAPPED TO WRITE THE LINER NOTES!! (DON'T EXPECT ANY BRILLIANT ANALYSIS...IT'LL JUST BE ILLUSTRATIONS AND COMMENTS.) THOMPSON TWINS GREATEST HITS!!! GOES ON SALE MAY 21 ON THE BGM VICTOR LABEL. PLEASE BUY A COPY!!
GOD, HE'S SO HANDSOME!
T O M
I TOLD YOU TO STOP THAT.
BOSS
CUT IT OUT.
BOSS
BOSS
WILL YOU PLEASE


STOP CALLING ME THAT.
THAT'S TOO MUCH.
...!
WHEN-EVER I FLINCH
...YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE TO PUSH ME FORWARD.
PSH
WHEN HAVE I...
ALWAYS?


IS HE FEELING THE SAME THING I AM?
ARE WE SPECIAL SOMEHOW?
OR IS THIS SOMETHING EVERYBODY FEELS?
SOMETIMES SELF-LOATHING ...

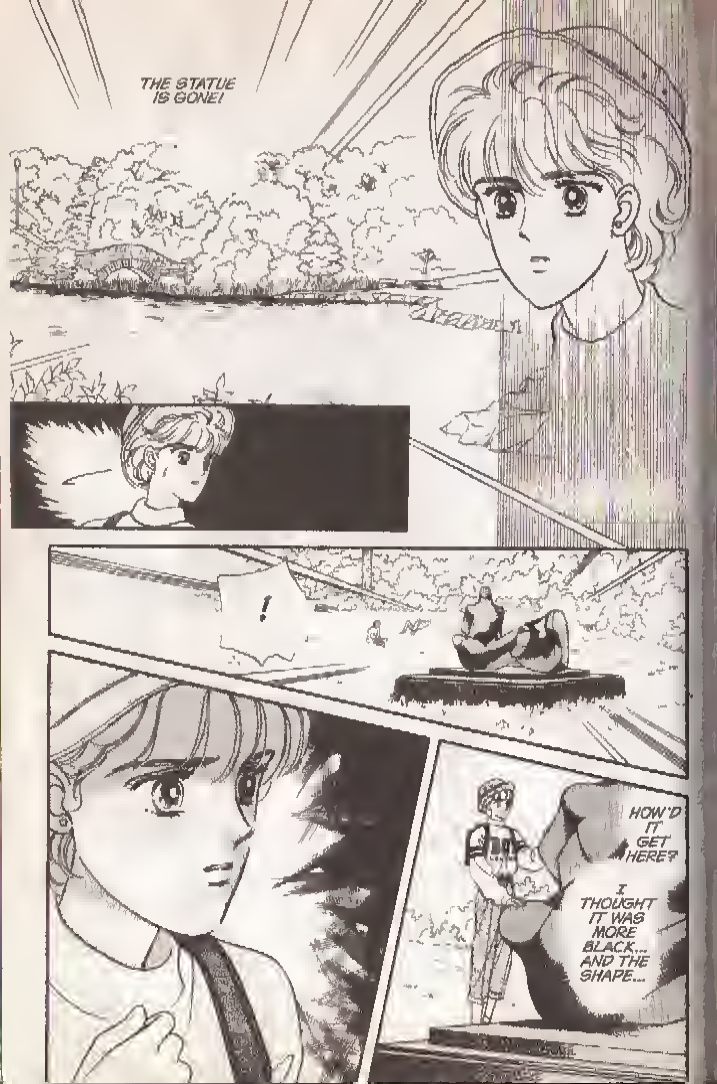
AND
SOMETIMES
LOVING
OURSELVES...

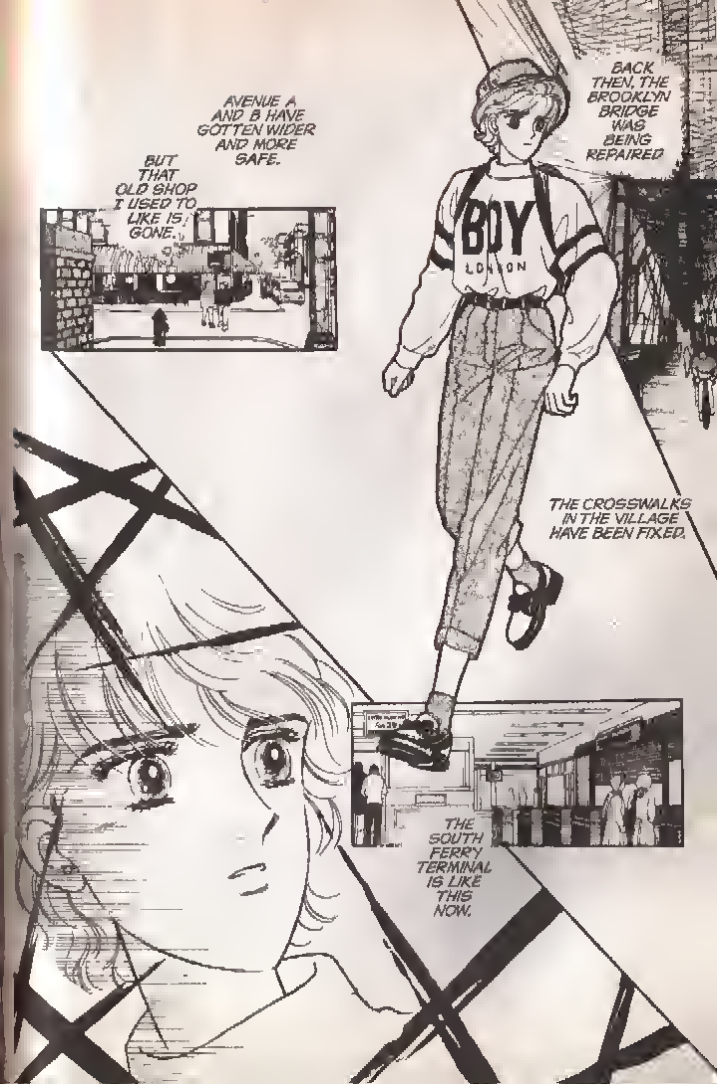
HI, RUTH! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
WHAT'S UP? AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL RIGHT NOW?
大人
RINGRING
OKAY, OKAY.
I'M COMING.
RINGRING
CLICK
HELLO?
大
ANISE IS... WHAT?
SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP AT SCHOOL ?!

ANISE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL?
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING, SIVA?
THIS MORNING SHE LEFT HOME SAME AS ALWAYS.
.....
SHE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY. I'M WORRIED.
I GOTTA GO.
I'M GONNA LOOK FOR HER.
WAIT! I'LL COME WITH YOU!
SIVA?
FWAP

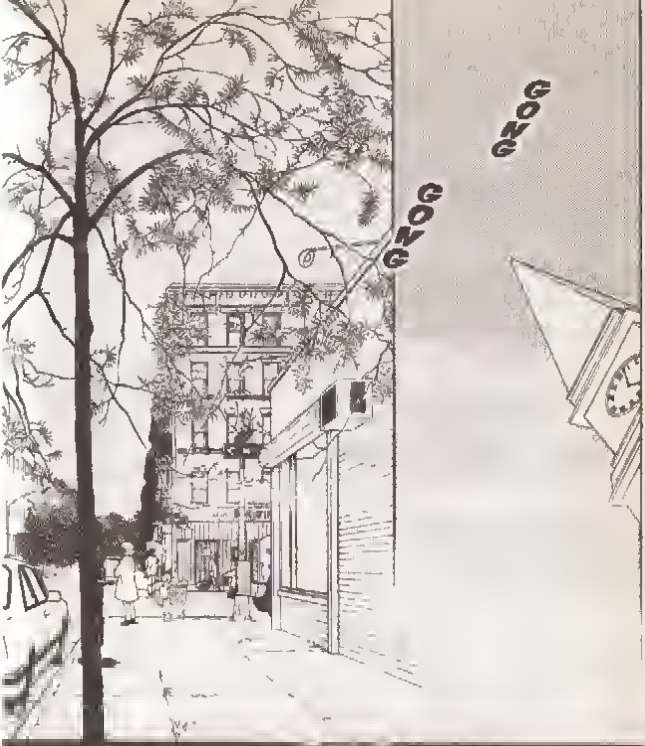
"THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT."
WE SKIPPED SCHOOL THAT DAY.
CIPHER AND I GOT SATURDAY DETENTION FOR IT.

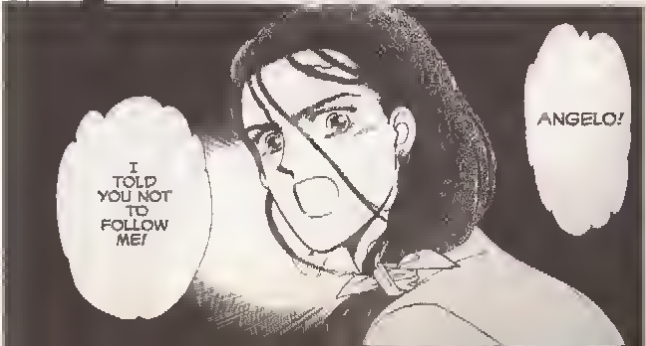
SOON IT WILL BE THE SAME SEASON AS IT WAS THEN.
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, CITICORP CENTER..
BOY LONDON
SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TAKEN A WALK LIKE THIS.
CENTRAL PARK...

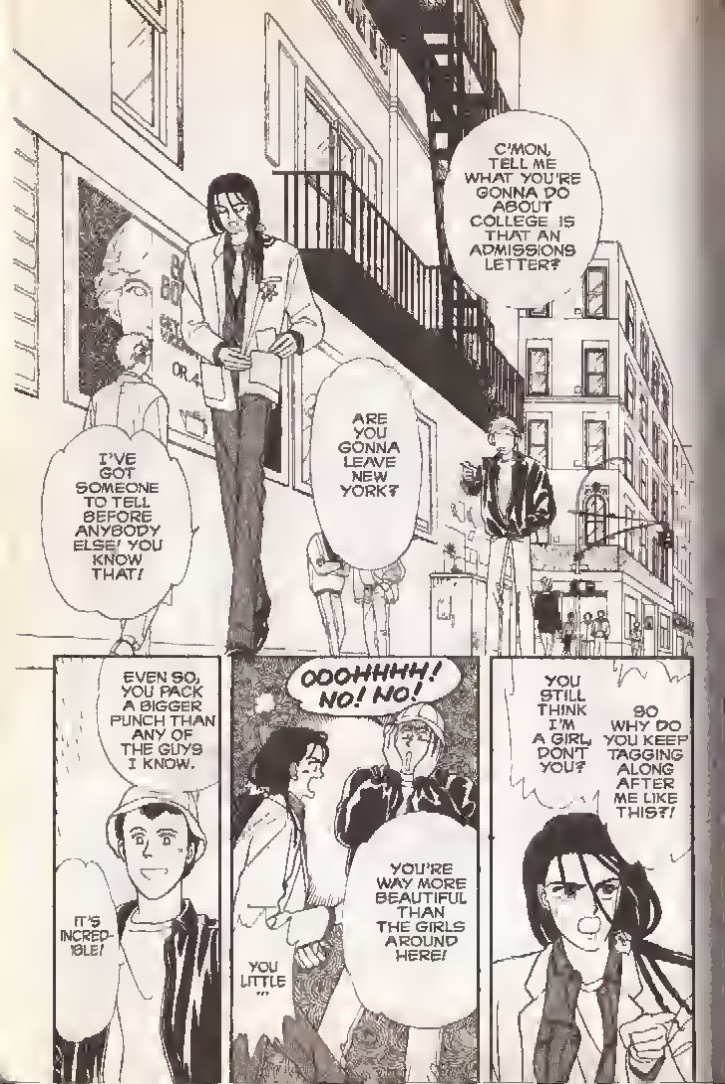

THE STATUE IS GONE!
!
HOW'D IT GET HERE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS MORE BLACK... AND THE SHAPE...


BACK THEN, THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE WAS BEING REPAIRED.
BOY
LONDON
AVENUE A AND B HAVE GOTTEN WIDER AND MORE SAFE.
BUT THAT OLD SHOP I USED TO LIKE IS GONE.
THE CROSSWALKS IN THE VILLAGE HAVE BEEN FIXED.
THE SOUTH FERRY TERMINAL IS LIKE THIS NOW.

...INTO A PLACE THAT ONLY I KNOW.
NEW YORK IS CHANGING...
A TOWN THAT CIPHER DOESN'T KNOW.

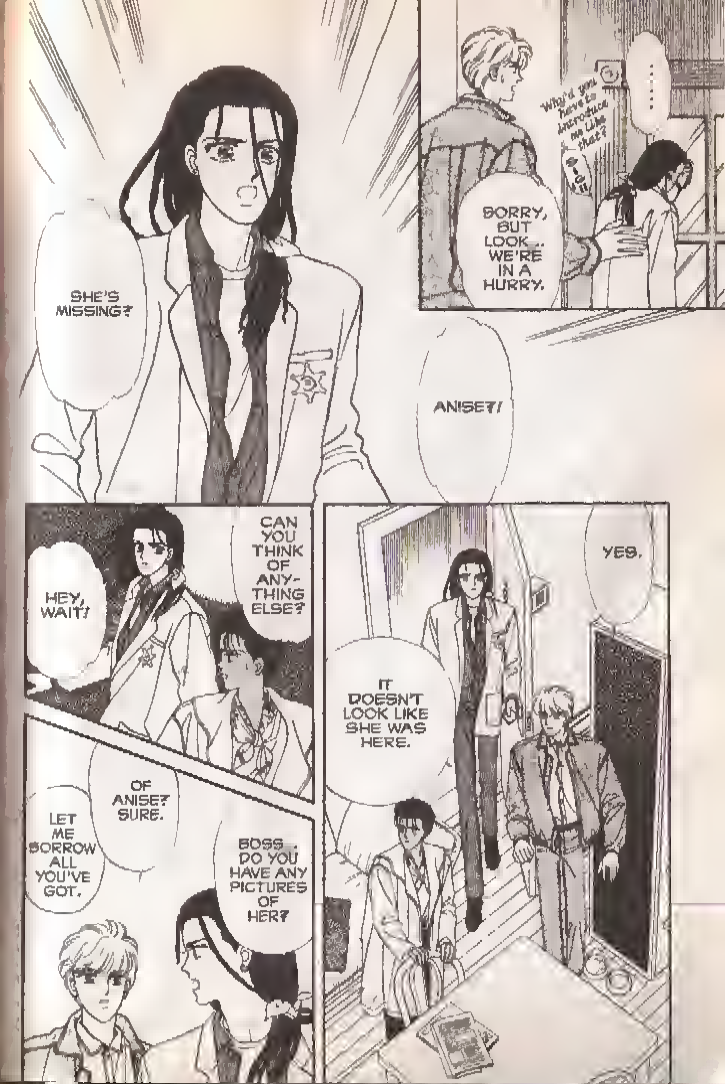

GONG
GONG


I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW ME!
ANGELO!

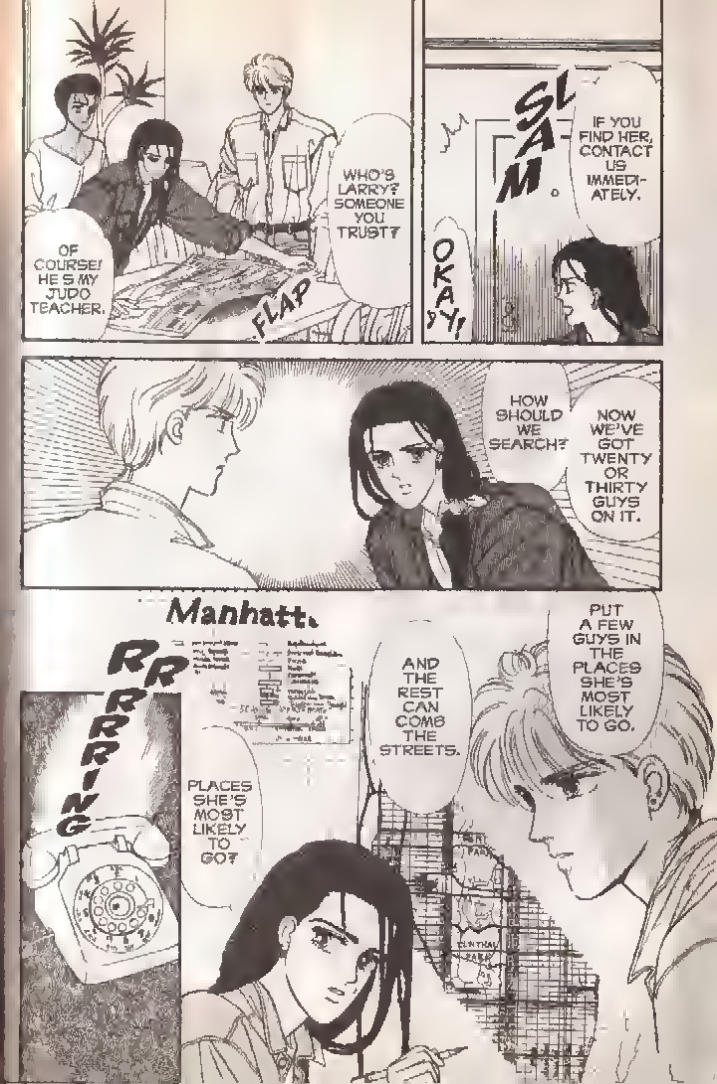

C'MON, TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO ABOUT COLLEGE IS THAT AN ADMISSIONS LETTER?
ARE YOU GONNA LEAVE NEW YORK?
I'VE GOT SOMEONE TO TELL BEFORE ANYBODY ELSE! YOU KNOW THAT!
EVEN SO, YOU PACK A BIGGER PUNCH THAN ANY OF THE GUYS I KNOW.
IT'S INCRED-IBLE!
OOOHHHH! NO! NO!
YOU'RE WAY MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE GIRLS AROUND HERE!
YOU LITTLE ...
YOU STILL THINK I'M A GIRL, DON'T YOU?
SO WHY DO YOU KEEP TAGGING ALONG AFTER ME LIKE THIS?!

The lock is broken.
THIS IS FOR BOSS.
IT'S FROM COLUMBIA!
WHAM
I'LL TELL YOU SECOND, SO JUST WAIT.
And you're cute, too
GACHA
BOSS!
LEVINE!

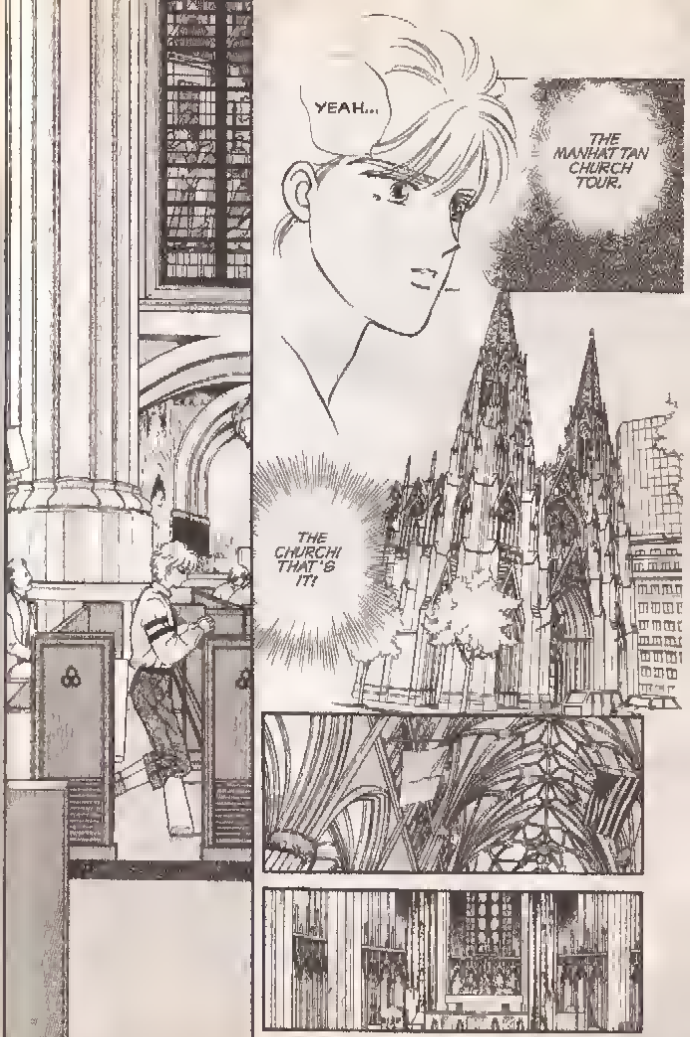
IS THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS?
DAWN
ANISE?
NO.
HAVE YOU SEEN ANISE?
WHAT GREAT TIMING.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU, ALEX LEVINE...
THIS IS RUTH BAKER A FRIEND OF ANISE.
OH...
JUST SO YOU KNOW, HE'S A GUY..
IS THIS THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL?
HOW DO YOU DO?


SORRY, BUT LOOK... WE'RE IN A HURRY.
Why'd you have to introduce me like that?
SHE'S MISSING?
ANISE?!
YES.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WAS HERE.
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-THING ELSE?
HEY, WAIT!
OF ANISE? SURE.
LET ME BORROW ALL YOU'VE GOT.
BOSS, DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OF HER?

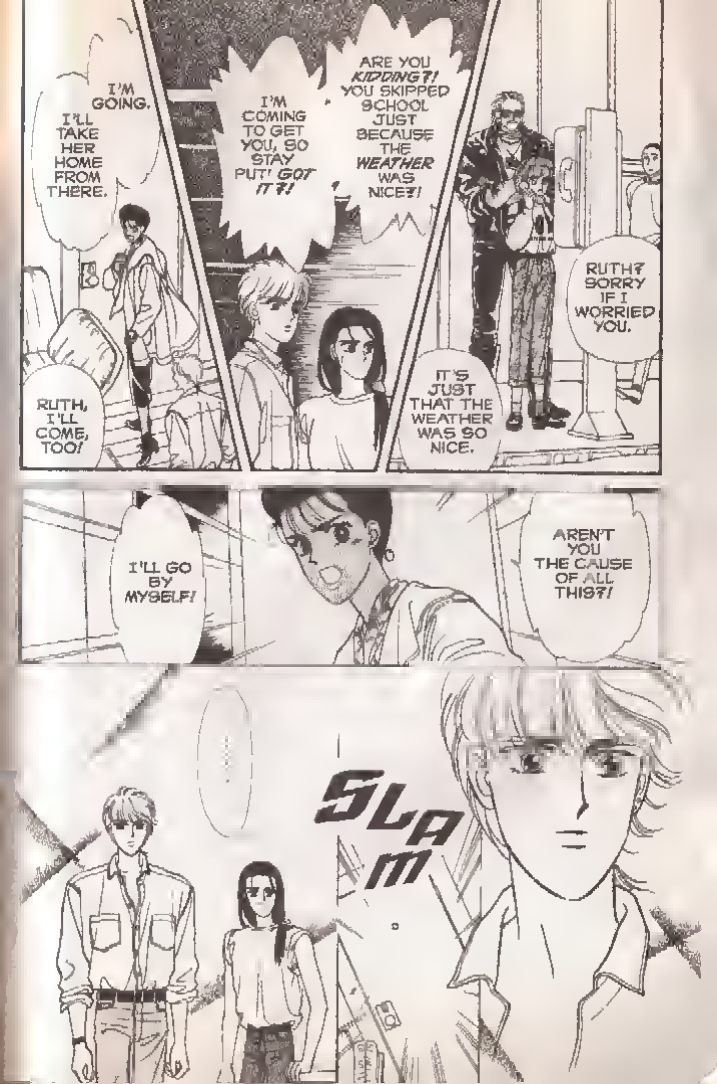
THIS WAS TAKEN LAST YEAR IN L.A.
BAM
FWEEET
ANGELO! GET UP HERE!
THIS IS HER, ANGELO.
WHOA. SHE'S CUTE.
HER HAIR IS SHORTER NOW, AND SHE'S ABOUT FIVE FOOT THREE.
YOU WANT EVERY-BODY TO LOOK FOR HER?
GOTCHA! LEAVE IT TO ME.
LISTEN.
TAKE ALL THIS STRAIGHT OVER TO LARRY.


OF COURSE! HE'S MY JUDO TEACHER.
WHO'S LARRY? SOMEONE YOU TRUST?
FLAP
SLAM
IF YOU FIND HER, CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.
OKAY!
HOW SHOULD WE SEARCH?
NOW WE'VE GOT TWENTY OR THIRTY GUYS ON IT.
Manhatt.
RRRRRING
PLACES SHE'S MOST LIKELY TO GO?
AND THE REST CAN COMB THE STREETS.
PUT A FEW GUYS IN THE PLACES SHE'S MOST LIKELY TO GO.

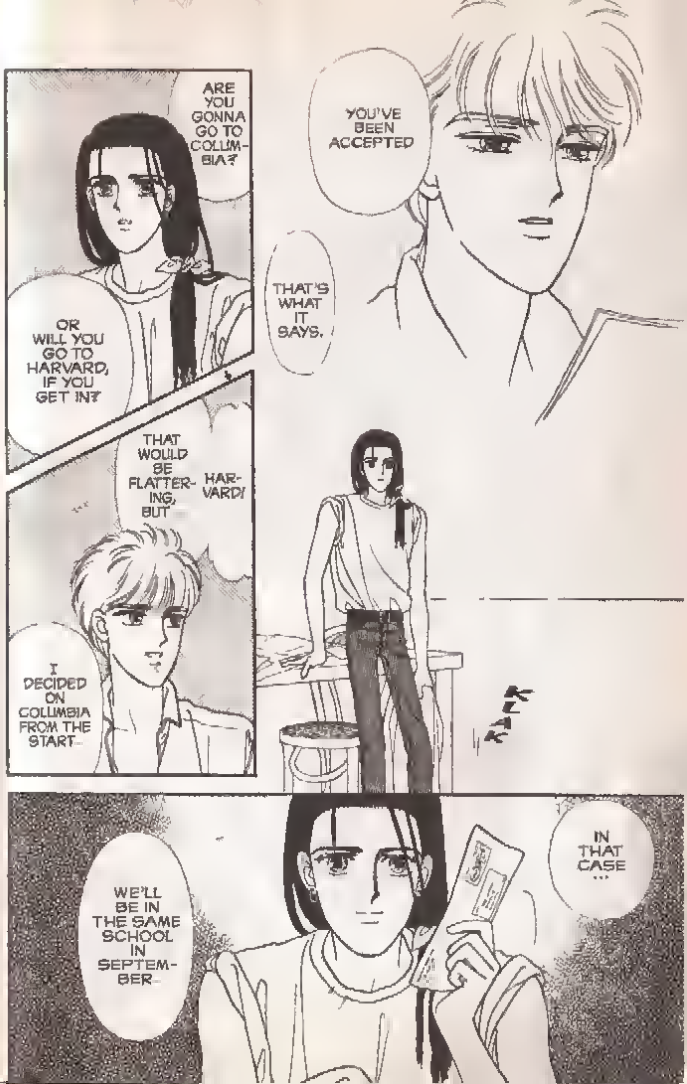
THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.
THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY.
CENTRAL PARK.
CITICORP CENTER.
HEY LARR
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT. ♡
I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A FEW SPOTS, SO WRITE THEM DOWN.
THE REST OF THEM CAN SCATTER AND COMB THE CITY.
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY-WHERE ELSE?
WHAT ABOUT CHURCH?
THAT'S THE KIND OF PLACE PEOPLE GO.

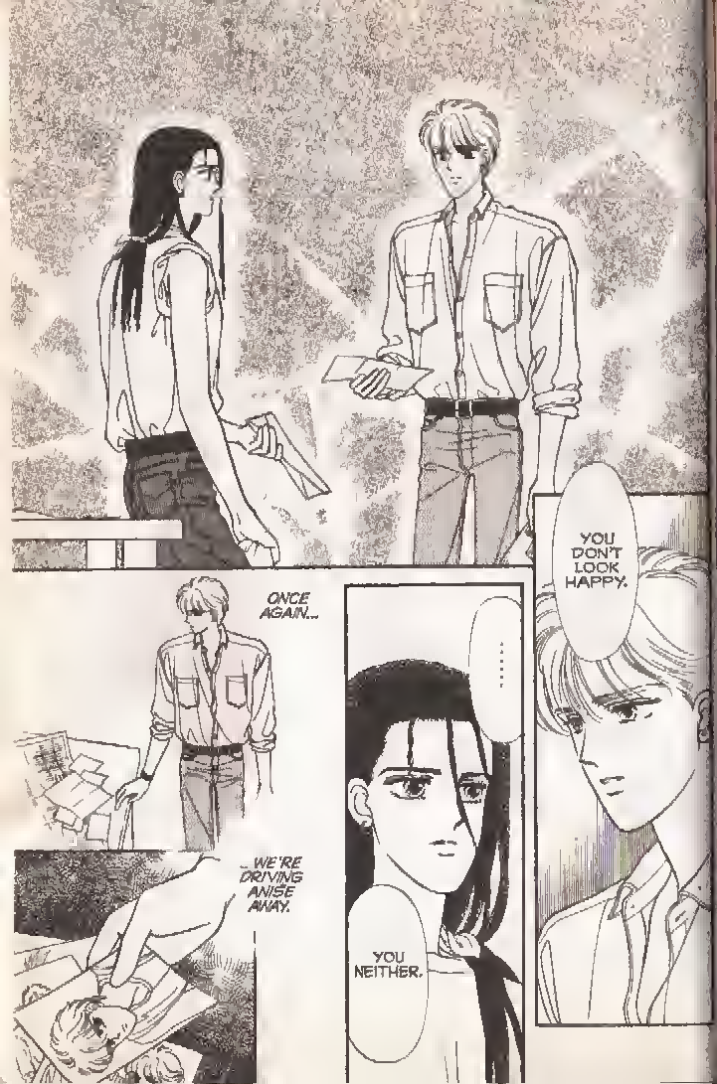

YEAH...
THE MANHATTAN CHURCH TOUR.
THE CHURCH! THAT'S IT!

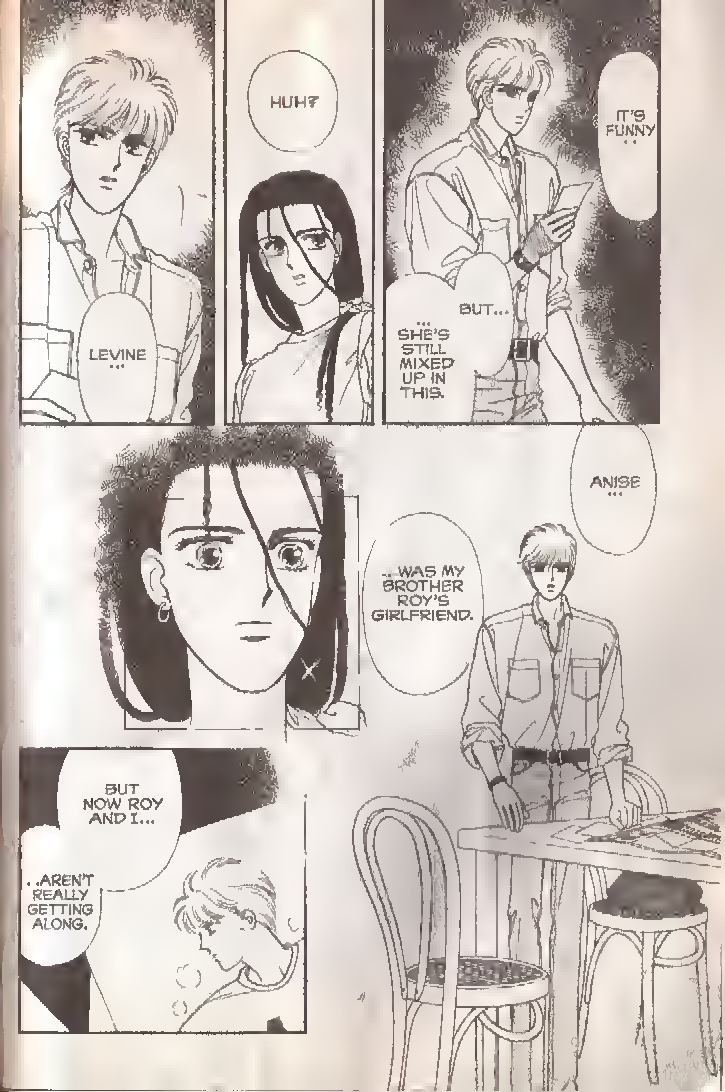
EXCUSE ME, MISS.
ARE YOU MISS ANISE MURPHY?
YOU FOUND HER?!
WHERE AT SAINT PATRICK?
GREAT JOB, CHARLIE!
SO SHE'S STILL ALIVE! PUT HER ON.
HELLO, ANI...
HEY, ANISE!

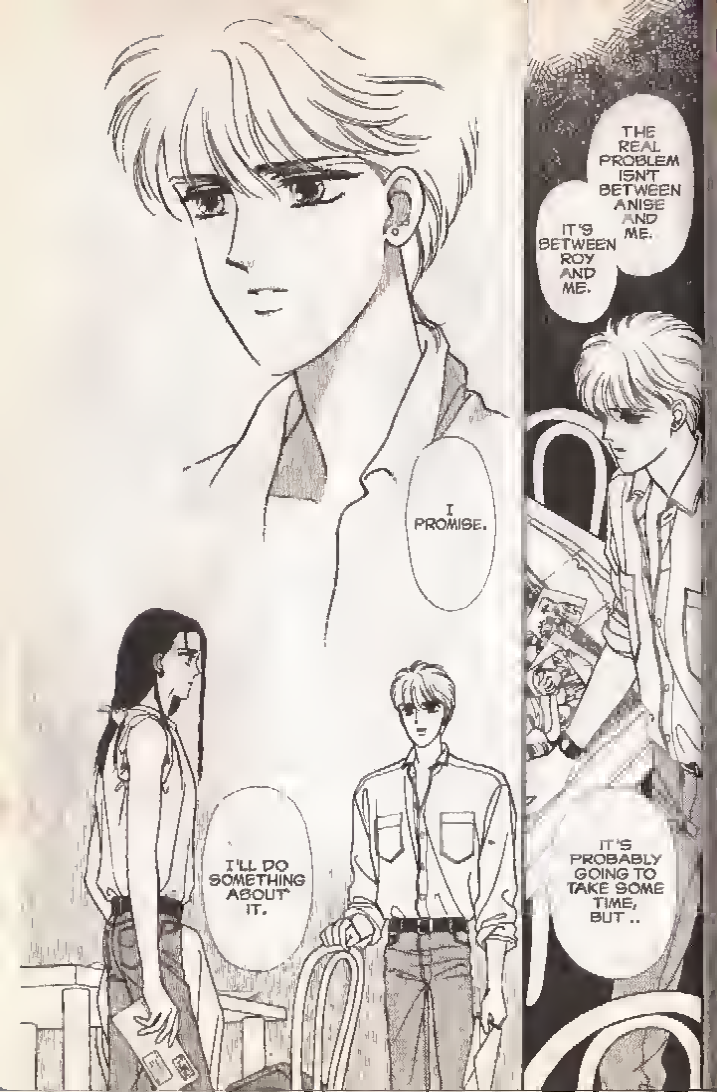

I'M GOING.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME FROM THERE.
RUTH, I'LL COME, TOO!
I'M COMING TO GET YOU, SO STAY PUT! GOT IT?!
ARE YOU KIDDING?! YOU SKIPPED SCHOOL JUST BECAUSE THE WEATHER WAS NICE?!
IT'S JUST THAT THE WEATHER WAS SO NICE.
RUTH? SORRY IF I WORRIED YOU.
I'LL GO BY MYSELF!
AREN'T YOU THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS?!
SLAM

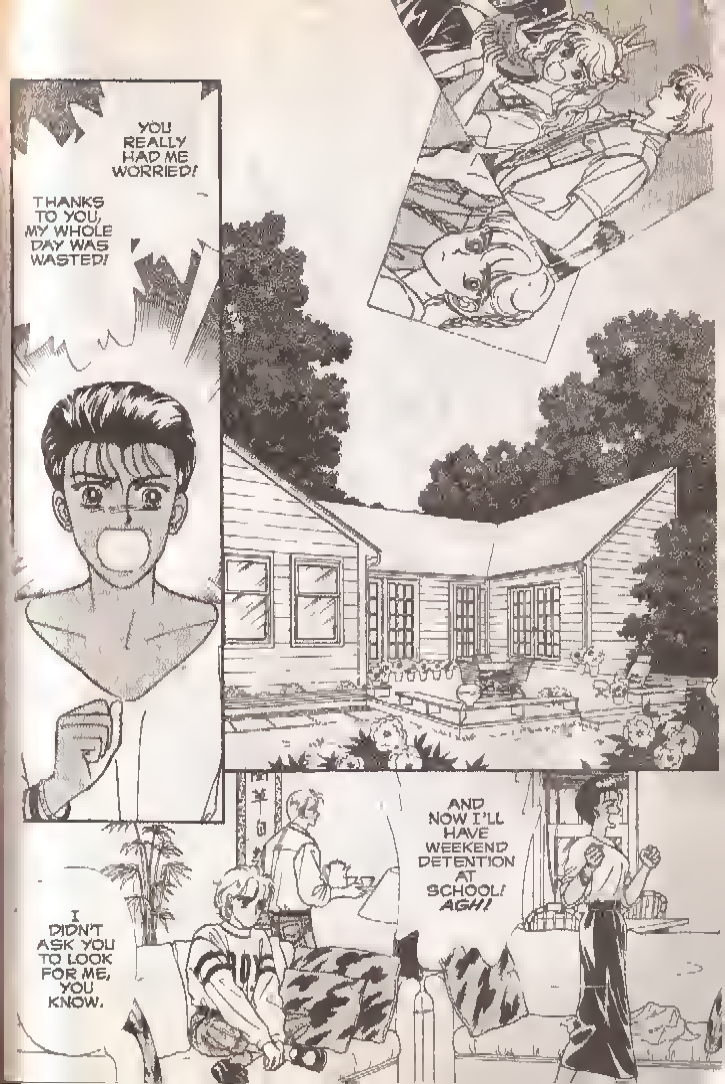
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.
THANKS. YOU REALLY HELPED OUT.
I'LL HAVE TO THANK EVERY-BODY ELSE LATER.
THIS CAME FOR YOU.
WHAT DID YOU COME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
!
IT'S FROM COLUMBIA?

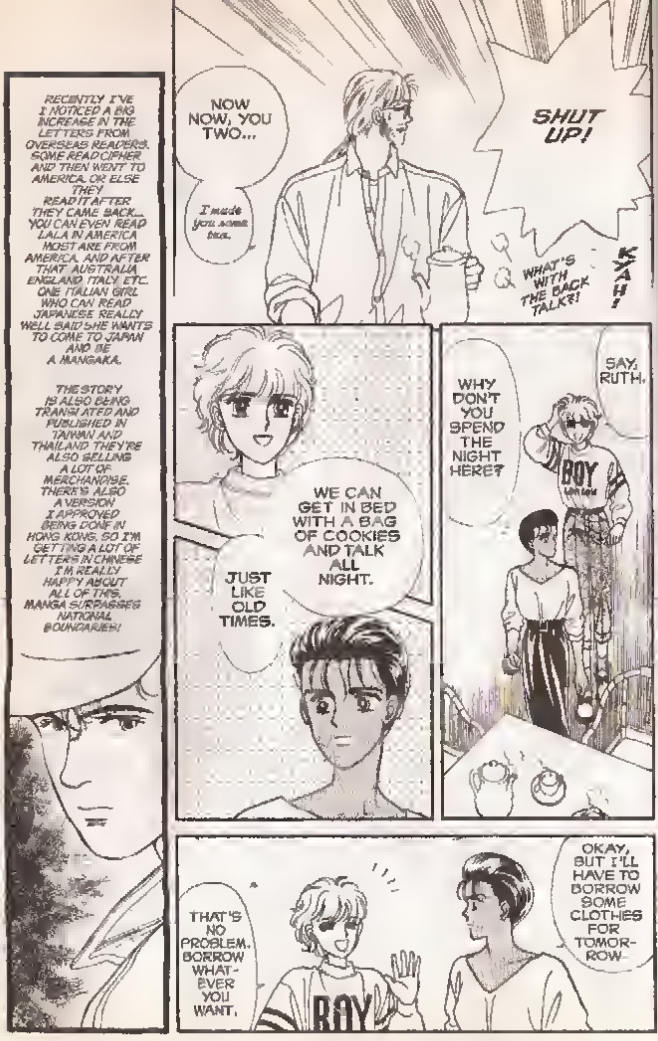

ARE YOU GONNA GO TO COLUMBIA?
OR WILL YOU GO TO HARVARD, IF YOU GET IN?
THAT WOULD BE FLATTERING, BUT
HARVARD!
I DECIDED ON COLUMBIA FROM THE START.
YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.
KLAK
IN THAT CASE ...
WE'LL BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER.

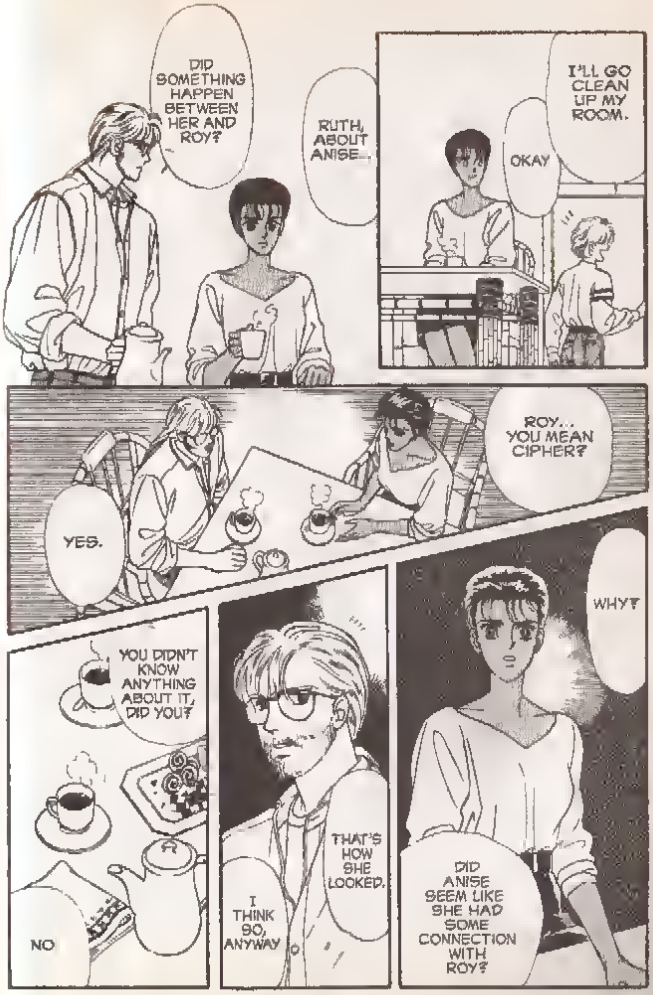

YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY.
.....
YOU NEITHER.
ONCE AGAIN...
WE'RE DRIVING ANISE AWAY.


LEVINE...
HUH?
IT'S FUNNY...
BUT... SHE'S STILL MIXED UP IN THIS.
ANISE...
...WAS MY BROTHER ROY'S GIRLFRIEND.
BUT NOW ROY AND I...
...AREN'T REALLY GETTING ALONG.

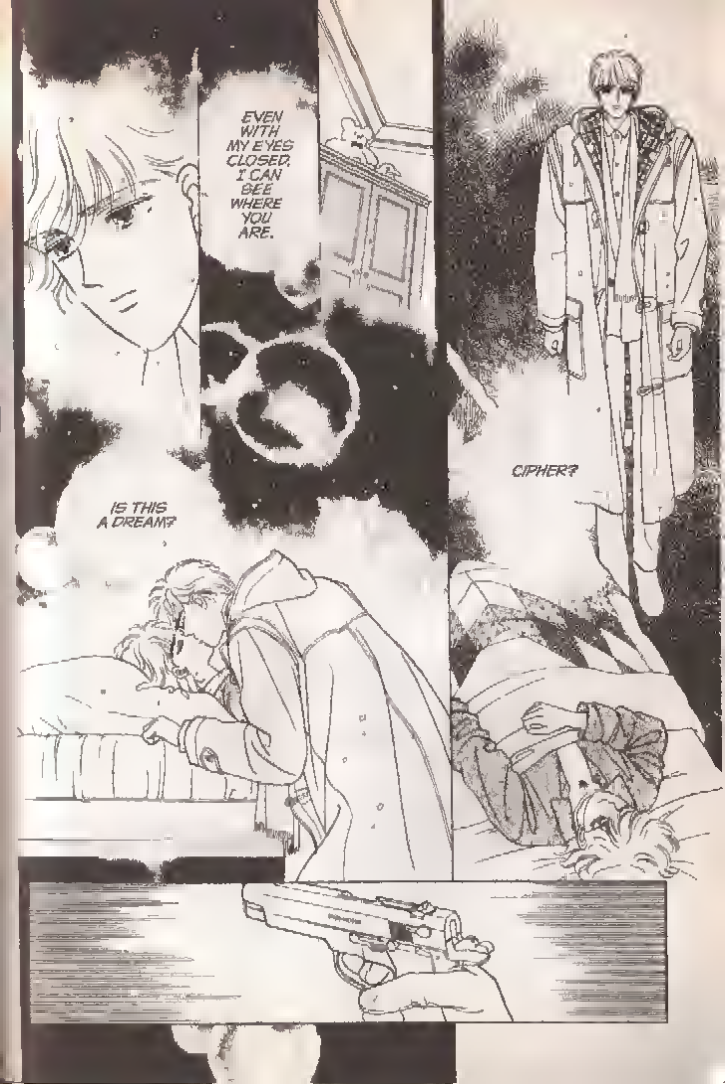

THE REAL PROBLEM ISN'T BETWEEN ANISE AND ME.
IT'S BETWEEN ROY AND ME.
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME, BUT ..
I PROMISE.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

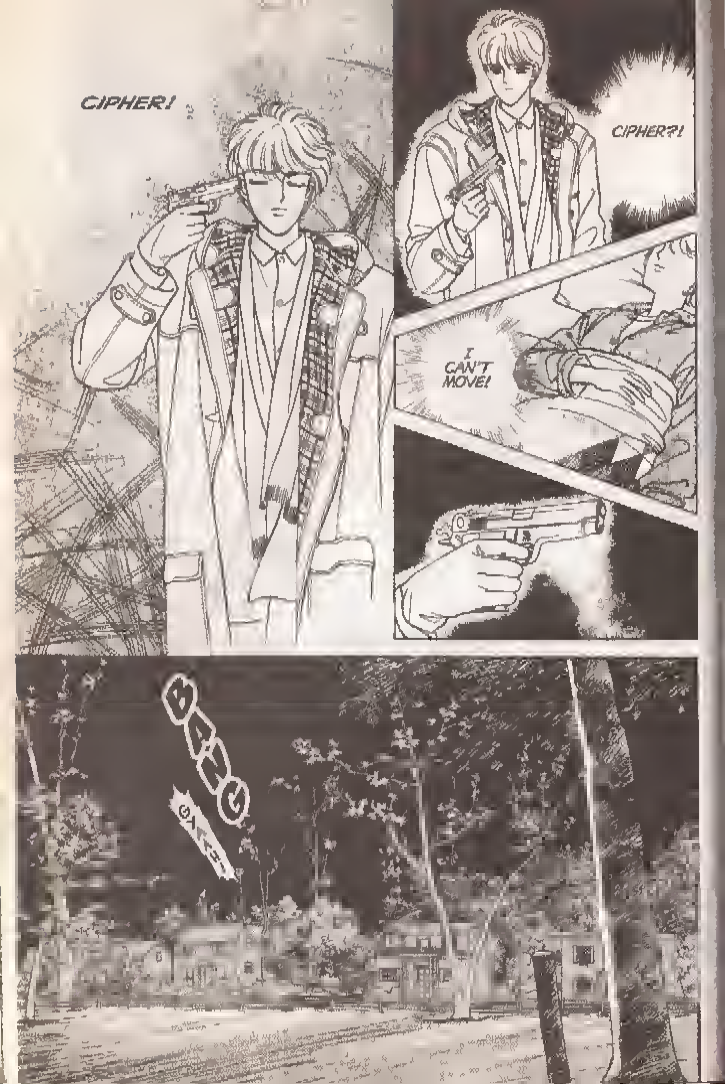

YOU REALLY HAD ME WORRIED!
THANKS TO YOU, MY WHOLE DAY WAS WASTED!
AND NOW I'LL HAVE WEEKEND DETENTION AT SCHOOL! AGH!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO LOOK FOR ME, YOU KNOW.


RECENTLY I'VE NOTICED A BIG INCREASE IN THE LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS READERS. SOME READ OPHER AND THEN WENT TO AMERICA OR ELSE THEY READ IT AFTER THEY CAME BACK... YOU CAN EVEN READ LALA IN AMERICA. MOST ARE FROM AMERICA, AND AFTER THAT, AUSTRALIA, ENGLAND, ITALY, ETC. ONE ITALIAN GIRL WHO CAN READ JAPANESE REALLY WELL SAID SHE WANTS TO COME TO JAPAN AND BE A MANGAKA.
THE STORY IS ALSO BEING TRANSLATED AND PUBLISHED IN TAIWAN AND THAILAND. THEY'RE ALSO SELLING A LOT OF MERCHANDISE. THERE'S ALSO A VERSION I APPROVED BEING DONE IN HONG KONG, SO I'M GETTING A LOT OF LETTERS IN CHINESE. I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT ALL OF THIS. MANGA SURPASSES NATIONAL BOUNDARIES!
NOW NOW, YOU TWO...
I made you some tea.
SHUT UP!
WHAT'S WITH THE BACK TALK?!
SAH!
WE CAN GET IN BED WITH A BAG OF COOKIES AND TALK ALL NIGHT.
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.
WHY DON'T YOU SPEND THE NIGHT HERE?
SAY, RUTH.
BOY
THAT'S NO PROBLEM. BORROW WHATEVER YOU WANT.
OKAY, BUT I'LL HAVE TO BORROW SOME CLOTHES FOR TOMORROW.

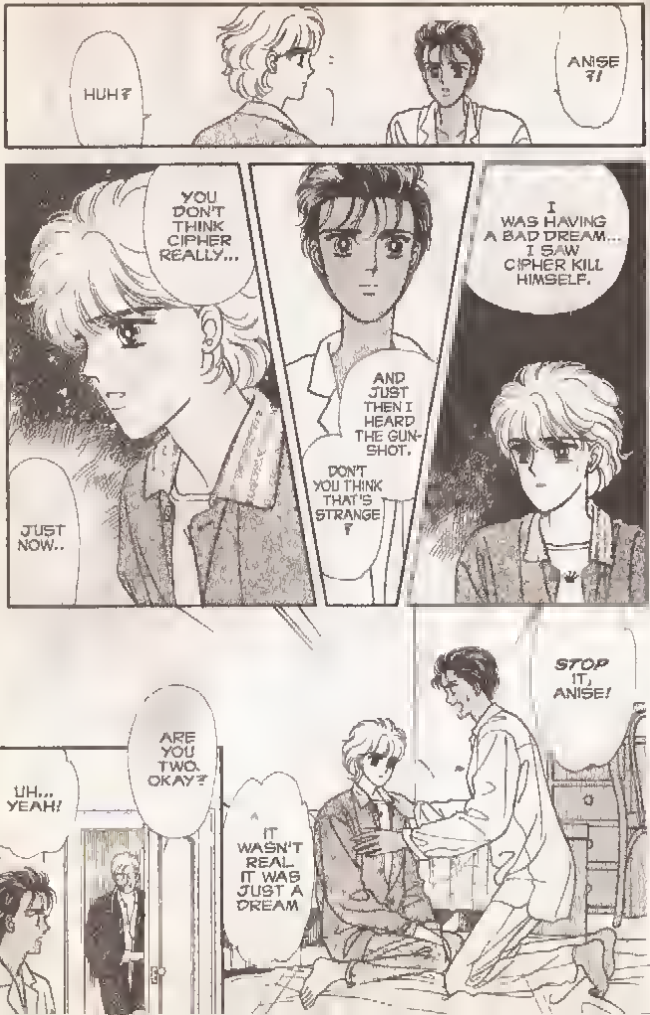

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN HER AND ROY?
RUTH, ABOUT ANISE...
I'LL GO CLEAN UP MY ROOM.
OKAY
ROY... YOU MEAN CIPHER?
YES.
WHY?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
NO
I THINK SO, ANYWAY
THAT'S HOW SHE LOOKED.
DID ANISE SEEM LIKE SHE HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH ROY?

THIS REALLY IS LIKE OLD TIMES.
LIKE BACK BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENED.
IT WAS MY LAST GOOD SUMMER BREAK.
HALLOWEEN.
THANKSGIVING.
11


EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED, I CAN SEE WHERE YOU ARE.
IS THIS A DREAM?
CIPHER?

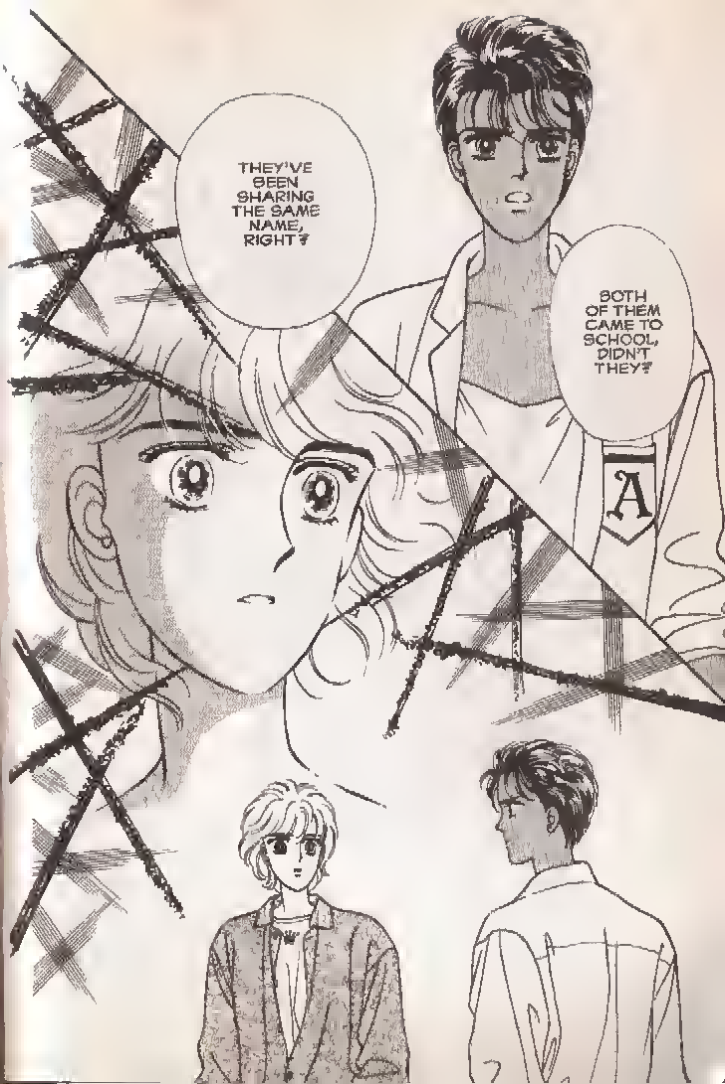

CIPHER!
CIPHER?!
I CAN'T MOVE!
BANG
BANG

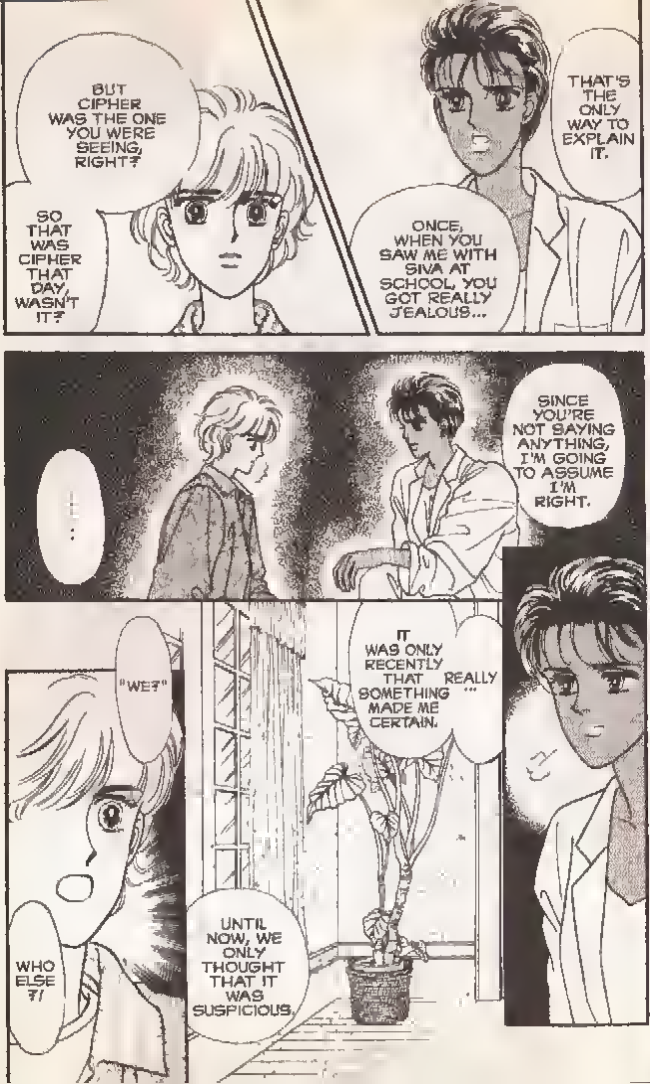
WAS THAT A GUN-SHOT?!
IT SOUNDED CLOSE-BY.
KNK
KEEP THE LIGHTS ON AND STAY DOWN. I'M CALLING 911.
LOOK ...
FLIK
BAP
ANISE! RUTH!
DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT?
TMP TMP TMP

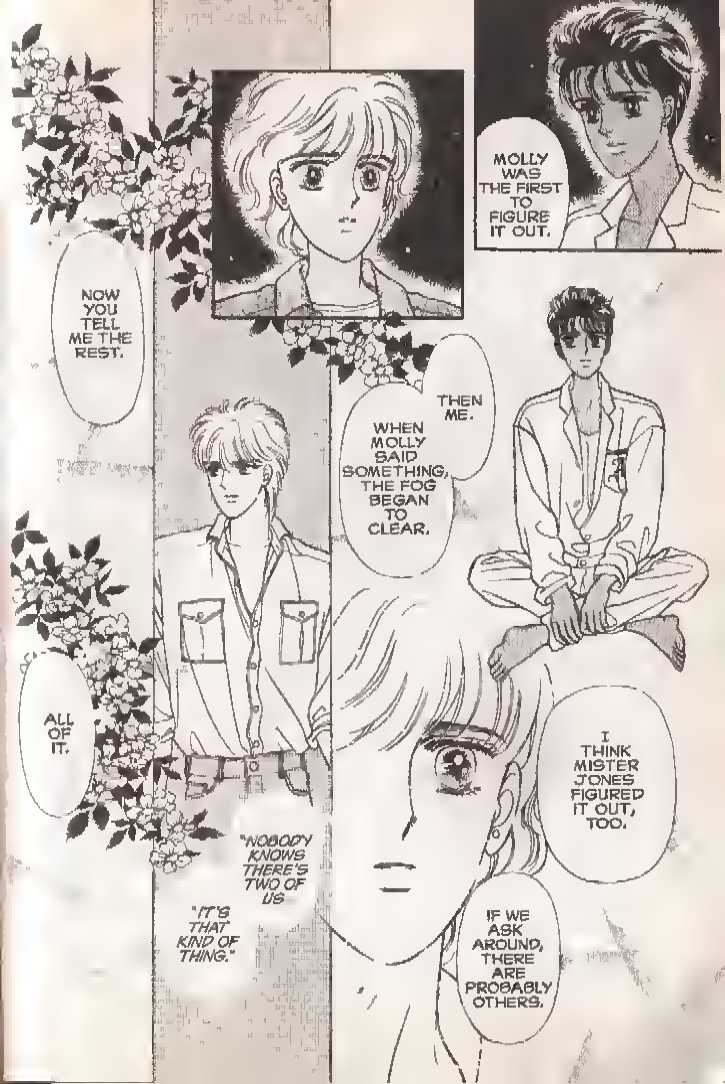

HUH?
ANISE?!
YOU DON'T THINK CIPHER REALLY...
JUST NOW..
AND JUST THEN I HEARD THE GUN-SHOT.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE?
I WAS HAVING A BAD DREAM... I SAW CIPHER KILL HIMSELF.
STOP IT, ANISE!
IT WASN'T REAL. IT WAS JUST A DREAM
ARE YOU TWO OKAY?
UH... YEAH!

THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON, BUT YOU'D BETTER CHECK THE LOCKS, JUST IN CASE.
GOOD IDEA.
SLAM
CLICK
CLICK
ANISE... TELL ME THE TRUTH THIS TIME.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN CIPHER AND SIVA?

AGH!
CUT THE CRAP!
NO, I DON'T THINK.
HAPPEN?
DON'T I MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU AT ALL?! DO YOU NOT TRUST ME?!
OR IS THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TELL ME ABOUT?! BECAUSE I THINK I CAN GUESS IT!


THEY'VE BEEN SHARING THE SAME NAME, RIGHT?
BOTH OF THEM CAME TO SCHOOL, DIDN'T THEY?
A


BUT CIPHER WAS THE ONE YOU WERE SEEING, RIGHT?
SO THAT WAS CIPHER THAT DAY, WASN'T IT?
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN IT.
ONCE, WHEN YOU SAW ME WITH SIVA AT SCHOOL, YOU GOT REALLY JEALOUS...
...
SINCE YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING, I'M GOING TO ASSUME I'M RIGHT.
IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT REALLY SOMETHING ... MADE ME CERTAIN.
"WE?"
WHO ELSE?!
UNTIL NOW, WE ONLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SUSPICIOUS.


MOLLY WAS THE FIRST TO FIGURE IT OUT.
NOW YOU TELL ME THE REST.
THEN ME.
WHEN MOLLY SAID SOMETHING, THE FOG BEGAN TO CLEAR.
ALL OF IT.
I THINK MISTER JONES FIGURED IT OUT, TOO.
"NOBODY KNOWS THERE'S TWO OF US
"IT'S THAT KIND OF THING."
IF WE ASK AROUND, THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHERS.

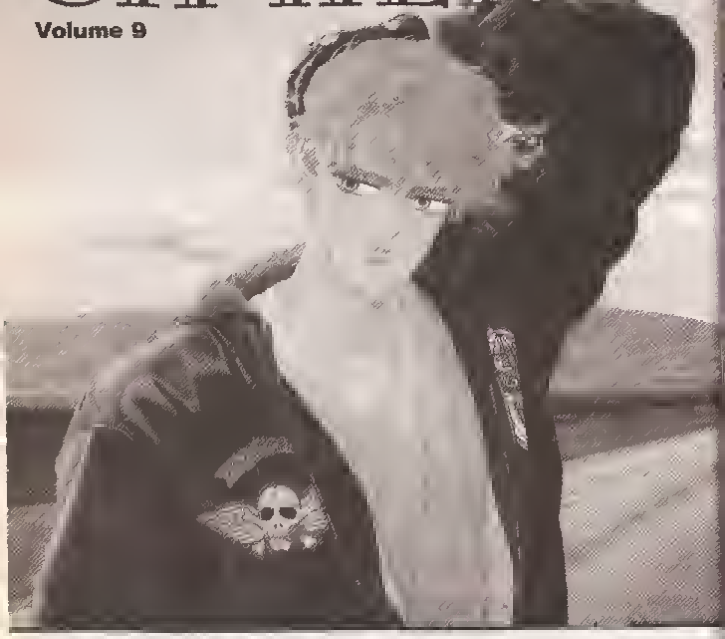
.....
ANISE?
SOMEONE FIGURED IT OUT.
CIPHER.

Scene 10: PERSONA
The End

WILL SIVA AND CIPHER BE ABLE TO RECONNECT? FIND OUT IN OCTOBER!

CIPHER

Volume 9



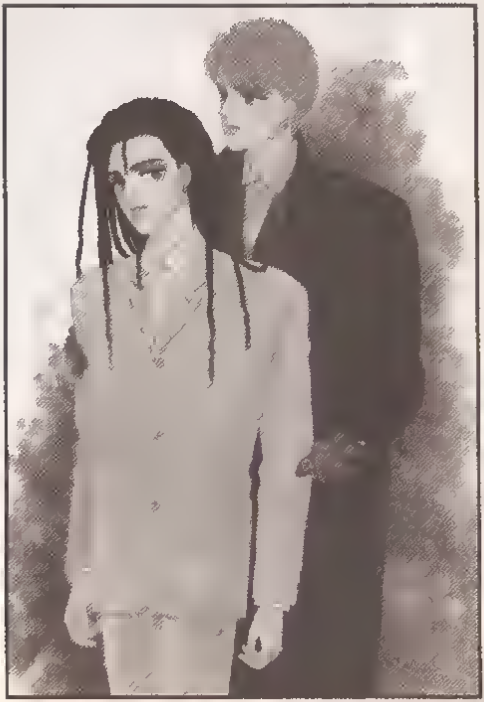
By Minako Narita. In New York, Siva and Anise went to contact Cipher, but neither knows exactly where in Los Angeles he is. Then, when Siva is attacked by a group of punks, Cipher feels a pain in his stomach and knows his brother is in trouble, but now he can't get through! What connection do the attackers have to Alex, Siva's new roommate?

CIPHER © 1994 Minako Narita/HAKUSENSHA, INC.

CIPHER

In addition to the many pages of story and art created for *Cipher*, writer and artist Minako Narita has also produced many wonderful individual illustrations over the years featuring the main characters from this beloved series.

From time to time and as space allows, we would like to share some of these images with you. We hope that you enjoy these additional glimpses into the creative vision of this talented illustrator.



CIPHER © MINAKO NARITA / HAKUSENSHA, INC.

©PHRC3 MINAKO NARITA, HAKUSENSHA, INC.

CIPHER © MINAKO NARITA/HAKUSENSHA, INC.

CIPHER © MINAKO NARITA/HAKUSENSHA, INC.

СЛУЖБА О МИЧАКО НАКПТА / НАКАЗЕМЕНА INC